

Remember to Vote November 4th, 2008



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®**

VOTER GUIDE

Non-Partisan Voting Information for LORAIN COUNTY



Remember! When You Vote, Bring I.D.

Election Day Voting

✓ A current and valid photo identification (i.e. Ohio driver's license, state ID card, government ID). Photo identification must show name and address (does not need to be current address for driver's license or state id card); **OR**

✓ A military identification that shows the voter's name. (Does not need to show address); **OR**

✓ A copy of a current utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address (including from a public college or university).

Note: Ohio law provides you cannot use as proof of identification a notice that the Board of Elections mailed to you. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by provisional ballot.

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund and
the League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area Education Fund
Please visit our websites: www.lwvohio.org & www.lwvoa.com

Polls Open 6:30AM - 7:30PM

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, founded in 1920, is a non-partisan organization that encourages the informed participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund provides non-partisan information and educational services to citizens.

Election Day Voting

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- ✓ A military identification that shows the voter's name. (Does not need to show address); or
- ✓ A copy of a current utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address (including from a public college or university).

Note: Ohio law provides you cannot use as proof of identification a notice that the board of elections mailed to you. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote by provisional ballot.

Absentee Voting

Any qualified Ohio voter may request and vote an absentee ballot without stating a reason. **IMPORTANT! If you request an absentee ballot, be sure to vote absentee. Otherwise, you will have to vote a provisional ballot at the polls on Election Day.**

Absentee ballots must be applied for in writing. An absentee application can be downloaded from the website of the Lorain County Board of Elections, or requested by phone, in writing, or in person before noon November 1, 2008:

Lorain County Board of Elections
1985 North Ridge Road, East
Lorain, OH 44055
440-326-5900 or 440-326-5901
General Fax 440-326-5931
<http://lorainboe.erienet.net/>

Absentee voting begins September 30, 2008.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked the day before the Election. Please note: Extra postage may be needed when mailing completed absentee ballots.

Or, a voter who has applied for an absentee ballot may appear at the Board of Elections office no later than the day before the election to vote the ballot.

The Board of Elections office is open every Saturday for absentee voting from 9:00 a.m. until noon in addition to their regular weekday hours.

Further Information

For FURTHER INFORMATION about voting procedures and information, candidates and issues, visit these websites!

www.lwvoa.com

www.vote411.org

To check if you are registered to vote and to find your polling location, visit the website of the Secretary of State of Ohio:
<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/>

The League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area expresses its appreciation to:

Oberlin News-Tribune, Amherst News-Times, The Wellington Enterprise, Lorain Journal, Elyria Chronicle-Telegram, Rural Urban Record, The Community Foundation of Lorain County (Hispanic Fund), The Nord Family Foundation, Oberlin College

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Glory Holt

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Shirley R. Johnson
Katherine Linehan
John Petersen and Nancy London
Tom Lopez
Claudia Macdonald
Marilyn McDonald
Albert McQueen
Marlene Merrill
Jane Moore
Jane Nord
Marzette E. Quinn
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Prepared by the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund

17 South High Street, Suite 650

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614-469-1505 877- LWV-OHIO (598-6446)

and the League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area Education Fund

For further information visit www.lwvoa.com and www.vote411.org

The League of Women Voters, founded in 1920, is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse candidates for office. The inclusion of a candidate's information in this Voter Guide is for the sole purpose of informing the public and does not constitute or imply League endorsement of any candidate or statement. The League does not alter, edit, correct or evaluate any candidate's reply, and each candidate is solely responsible for the accuracy and truth of his or her statements.

Note: the candidates for the two major political parties are listed in alphabetical order for each office, followed by additional candidates, if any, in alphabetical order.

President and Vice President of the U.S.

Term: 4 years, limit of two terms.

Salary: \$400,000

VOTE FOR ONE

Job Description: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces, whose powers are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws. The President may also recommend legislation to the U. S. Congress.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) COST OF HEALTH CARE:** What should be done at the federal level, if anything, to combat the high cost of health care?
- 2) ECONOMIC DISPARITY:** What, if anything, should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the middle class and the well-to-do?
- 3) EDUCATION:** What, if anything, should the federal government do to create the world's best educational system for all children in America?
- 4) U.S. STRATEGY - RISING GLOBAL POWERS:** What should the U.S. strategy be towards rising global powers like Russia and China?

Note: Information on some candidates for President on the Ohio ballot is not included in this voter guide because they did not meet the criteria set forth by the League of Women Voters of the United States. Responses to questions were limited to 50 words. See the complete Presidential Voters' Guide published by the LWVUS at www.lwv.org or www.vote411.org

JOHN MCCAIN & SARAH PALIN

Party: Republican

BIOGRAPHY:

McCain graduated from the Naval Academy and served for 22 years as a naval aviator. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 and the Senate in 1986. He has served as chairman of the Commerce Committee and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

Response to Questions:

- 1)** Under my plan, American families will receive \$5,000 tax credits to purchase insurance, either through employers or the private market insurance that can follow them if they change jobs or leave the work force. I will work for reforms to lower costs and provide coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions.
- 2)** We must spur growth, create jobs, improve educational attainment, and

enhance financial security. My plan will keep income and payroll taxes low, reduce the price of gas, double the dependent exemption, bring down health-care costs, give deserving homeowners new fixed mortgages, slash our high business taxes, and expand trade.

- 3)** Our education system must focus on standards, accountability, and choice. My plan calls for recruiting highly qualified teachers in the neediest communities, empowering parents to choose the best

schools for their children, expanding online educational opportunities, providing low-income families with access to tutors, and funding professional development for teachers.

- 4)** As President, I will work to establish good relations with other nations. At the same time, I will stand up for democratic values and human rights, and I will oppose aggression and international lawlessness that threaten our security.

BARACK OBAMA & JOE BIDEN

Party: Democrat

BIOGRAPHY:

Obama began his career as a community organizer on Chicago's South Side and headed a voter registration drive. Obama practiced civil rights law and taught constitutional law. He served eight years in the State Senate before his election to the U.S. Senate. He graduated from Columbia University and Harvard Law.

Response to Questions:

- 1)** My healthcare plan will make aggressive investments in cost-cutting technologies and will place more focus on prevention and chronic care management. The net result will be to bring down the costs of healthcare spending by \$2,500 for a typical family, annually, and lower the expense of Medicare's services.
- 2)** I will cut taxes for the middle class and roll back some of the Bush tax cuts for those

making over \$250,000 to restore fairness to the tax code. I will make long term public investments in R&D, clean energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing to create millions of good-paying jobs.

- 3)** I will strengthen public schools by expanding early childhood education, reforming and funding No Child Left Behind, recruiting and rewarding high-quality teachers, and expanding afterschool and summer learning opportunities. I will

create a \$4,000 American Opportunity Tax Credit and expand financial aid to make higher education affordable for all.

- 4)** We must enhance our abilities both to collaborate and compete with China, while being vigilant about China's military modernization and respect for human rights. As we seek a future of clear-eyed engagement with Russia, we must ensure Russia acts as a force for progress, not regression to past conflicts.

CHUCK BALDWIN & DARRELL L. CASTLE

Party: Constitution Party

BOB BARR & WAYNE ROOT

Party: Libertarian Party of Ohio

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY & ROSA A. CLEMENTE

Party: Green Party of the United States

BRIAN MOORE & STEWART ALEXANDER

Party: Socialist Party USA

RALPH NADER & MATT GONZALEZ

Party: Independent

BIOGRAPHY:

Attorney, author, and consumer advocate, named by Time Magazine one of the 100 Most Influential Americans in the 20th Century. Over 4 decades of public service. Helped establish the OSHA, EPA, Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Safe Drinking Water Act, Motor Vehicle

Safety Act, and Freedom of Information Act.

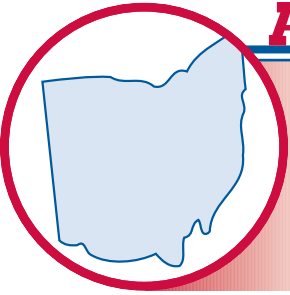
Response to Questions:

- 1)** Adopt a private delivery, free choice of hospital and doctor, single payer public health insurance system. This would save \$350 billion annually by eliminating exorbitant executive pay, advertising, computerized billing fraud and abuse, and apply those savings to comprehensively cover everyone without increasing taxpayer costs. Lower costs through bulk purchasing.
- 2)** Unfair legislation allows the middle class to suffer while the rich entrench their status. To correct this we should enact a living \$10 wage, adopt a fair tax, and provide equal pay for women. We must end corporate subsidies and bailouts. Repeal NAFTA and the anti-union Taft/Hartley Law.
- 3)** Increase civic education and decrease standardized testing. Repeal "No Child Left Behind" Act. Do not tie test performance to school funding. Provide full funding for pre-school and nutrition programs. Get product

marketing out of the schools. Ensure that the nation's crumbling schools are repaired within 3 years.

- 4)** The US should be a humanitarian superpower. Our foreign policy must redefine global security, peace, arms control, an end to nuclear weapons and expand the many assets of our country to assist with major initiatives against global infectious diseases. Stop support of foreign dictators. Human rights come before trade, profit.

Attorney General



Term: 4 years

Salary: \$105,202

VOTE FOR ONE

Job Description: The Attorney General is the lawyer for the State of Ohio and its departments, boards, and agencies. The Attorney General has enforcement authorities in areas such as consumer protection, charitable solicitation, antitrust actions and organized crime.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) What specific actions should the Attorney General take to protect consumers in Ohio?
- 2) What changes would you propose in the authority of the Attorney General?

RICHARD CORDRAY

Party: Democrat

Biographical Information:

<http://www.cordrayforohio.com/about/biography.html>

Responses to Question:

1) "Ohio's Attorney General should use all the powers of the office against anyone who tries to scam Ohioans or use 'gotcha' tactics to take

their hard-earned dollars. As Attorney General, I would carry on the work begun in the State Treasurer's office to educate consumers about predatory practices and making informed financial decisions. Financial education helps, but the rule of law is the critical tool to protect the financial security of Ohioans. Specifically, we will continue our work on foreclosure prevention (taking on predatory lenders, appraisers, flippers, and foreclosure "prevention" scammers); stand up for fair consumer practices by credit card companies (including marketing to students on campus);

initiate a Senior Strike Force to prevent consumer fraud against seniors; and battle every kind of unfair financial practice that takes money out of our pockets or jobs from our hometowns."

2) "As the only candidate who has actually worked in the Attorney General's office as Ohio's first State Solicitor, I understand the expansive powers of the office and do not plan initially to seek broader powers. Instead, I intend to exercise my authority to uphold the standards of professionalism and restore public trust in the office. I also will protect the

financial interests of Ohioans and be a strong partner to local law enforcement. I will reconstitute the Criminal Law Project to help local prosecutors arguing in the Ohio Supreme Court to keep criminals behind bars, establish commissions to assist on budgetary issues for local law enforcement, and work closely with small businesses to provide an early warning system and dispute mediation to reduce costs. If the structure or functions of the office prove inadequate, I will work with both sides of the aisle in the General Assembly to address that."

MIKE CRITES

Party: Republican

Biographical Information:

<http://www.critesforohio.com/biography>

Responses to Question:

1) "As Attorney General I will make the protection of Ohio consumers one of my top

priorities. I am a career prosecutor, not a career politician. I have 21 years of prosecutorial experience, more than the last seven Attorneys General combined. As United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio I prosecuted every type of criminal from members of the Mafia, to dangerous drug dealers to tax evaders. I pledge to use that experience to uphold the consumer laws of Ohio and to go after criminals, both individuals and businesses,

who illegally prey on Ohioans."

2) "I believe the Ohio Revised Code statutes that refer to the Office of Attorney General currently in place are well thought out and give the office an appropriate amount of authority. We have arrived at this special election not because of a failing in the authority of the office of Attorney General, but rather because of the personal failings of the last Attorney General. The office has worked very well under the last several

Attorneys General and therefore I do not believe that sweeping new authority is needed.

However, I have offered several policy proposals as to how I would improve the office, including the creation of an Ad hoc committee to streamline the various ongoing investigations into the office, the creation of new fellowships to reward professionalism and improve morale, and a Public Corruption Commission to ensure that these types of scandals never again taint the office."

ROBERT OWENS

Party: Independent

Biographical Information:

<http://owens2008.com/home/about-robert/>

Responses to Question:

1) "Protecting consumers starts by sacredly guarding their tax dollars, eliminating the "corruption tax," which by some accounts has been as much as \$2,000 per family. This means changing the system that awards no-

bid contracts to large campaign contributors representing special interests. It also means eliminating the current "slush funds" that are created by monies collected by the attorney general's office through settlement and litigation. Those funds should be returned to the people's treasury.

As attorney general, I will work to reduce regulation on small business (often falsely marketed as "consumer protection"), while increasing focus on prosecuting fraudulent business practices.

Finally, consumer protection means fighting crime. I will work to expand

capabilities for the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) forensic lab in order to better support law enforcement across Ohio. I will also work to expand education to communities and law enforcement regarding citizen rights to self defense."

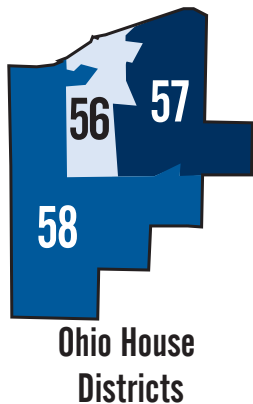
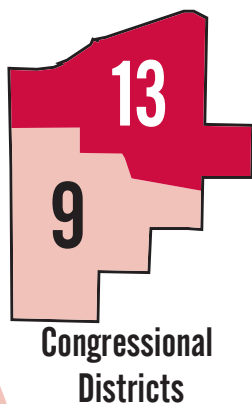
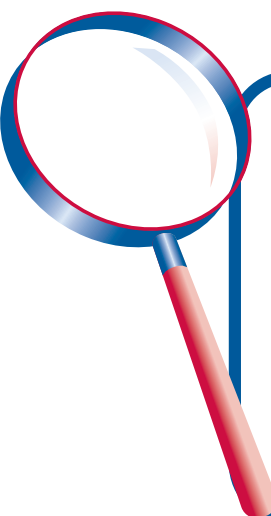
2) "The attorney general should not have the authority to unilaterally distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in no-bid contracts. I am the only candidate to propose, from the beginning of the race, that every contract be subject to a full, open competitive bid process. All financial transactions of the attorney

general's office should be readily available (i.e. online), open to public and media scrutiny.

The only way to restore integrity to the office of attorney general is through independent oversight and full transparency. I am the only candidate to sign the Buckeye Institute's "Transparency in Government" pledge.

Let there be no more blind trust in politicians. The system itself must be changed. As an independent, I alone have the ability to make these changes without concern from party politics and big money special interest pressure."

Find Your District



56th Ohio House District for Lorain County

Amherst Twp	44053
Carlisle Twp	44038
Elyria City	44035
(Wards 6 + 5)	
Elyria Twp	44035
(All except an island in Ward 2)	
Lorain	44052
New Russia Twp	44074
Oberlin	44074
Sheffield Lake	44054
Sheffield Twp	44054
South Amherst	44001

57th Ohio House District for Lorain County

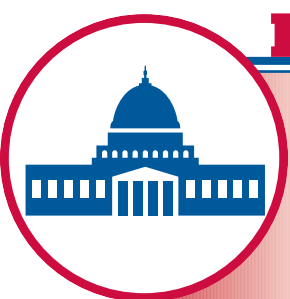
Avon	44011
Avon Lake	44012
Carlisle Twp	44050
Columbia Twp	44028
Eaton Twp	44044
Elyria	44035
	44036
	44039
North Ridgeville	44039
Sheffield	44054

58th Ohio House District for Lorain County

Vermilion	44089
Amherst City	44001
Brownhelm Twp	44001
Henrietta Twp	44889
Kipton	44049
Camden Twp	44049
Brighton Twp	44090
Rochester City	44090
Pittsfield Twp	44090
Wellington City	44090
Wellington Twp	44090
Huntington Twp	44880
LaGrange City	44050
LaGrange Twp	44050

Representatives, U. S. Congress

(Various parts of Lorain County are in the 9th or 13th Congressional District.)



Term: 2 years

Salary: \$169,300

VOTE FOR ONE

Job Description: 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 to candidates:

- 1) What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?
- 2) How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?

Representatives, U. S. Congress 9th Congressional District

Vermilion, Amherst, South Amherst, Oberlin, La Grange, Wellington

MARCY KAPTUR

Party: Democrat

Education: BA History: University of Wisconsin, 1968

MA Urban Planning: University of Michigan, 1974, attended MIT toward PhD, 1981

Occupation: Member of Congress, 1983 - present

Training and Experience: Urban planner in Toledo and Chicago, Urban Advisor to President Carter, Secretary-Treasurer of National Consumer Co-Operative Bank

Response to Questions:

1) I support access to affordable health care for all Americans. My own legislation -Health Coverage, Affordability, and Responsibility & Equity Act—would cover everyone through expansion of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance

Program, with premium subsidies and tax credits to help purchase health insurance in the market place. Purchasing arrangement and market reforms would make coverage affordable. States would have flexibility (and federal funding) to develop equal options.

2) Congress must institute thoughtful reform with fair and comprehensive initiatives. People who live in the United States should be here legally. The federal government must control our borders. Unfair trade

agreements that exacerbate illegal immigration should be overhauled, if not repealed.

Legal immigrants should be given all rights guaranteed by the Constitution, The current immigration system is broken; applicants for citizenship and others who aspire to live in the United States should have access to the immigration process under the limits and other controls imposed by Congress.

No Response Received

Lorain, Elyria, North Ridgeville

DAVID S. POTTER
Party: Republican

Education: Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Marketing, Political Science Minor from Ball State University, Muncie, IN, 1984.
Occupation: Self-Employed Full-Time Candidate. 20+ years in the Healthcare Industry in sales and marketing of medical devices for established companies such as Medtronic and Johnson & Johnson, as well as start-ups such as Cardiva Medical, Inc.

(most recent employer).
Training and Experience: I have worked in the private sector since graduating from college in 1984. I began my career with Procter & Gamble, Inc. and after 4 years, moved into the medical device industry.
Response to Questions:
1) I oppose a single payer universal healthcare system. It will drive the brightest of our citizens from pursuing degrees in medicine, compromising patient care and drive others from pursuing careers in research and engineering which will reduce

the discoveries of innovative technologies that have given our country the level of healthcare we are privileged to have today. Over 80% of Americans possess health insurance. The system doesn't require a complete overhaul; my opponent believes it does. We need to ensure basic coverage for all, particularly minors. We need to legislate responsible tort reform to significantly reduce costs across the board.
2) When in Congress I will support legislation or sponsor legislation that:
-Enforce the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Bill of 1986, that was passed by

a Democrat controlled Congress and signed by Ronald Reagan (true bi-partisanship),
-Secure our borders to prevent further illegal immigrants from entering our country
-Force employers to comply with current immigration laws and enforce penalties on those who knowingly hire illegal workers
-Oppose any new form of amnesty programs. These new programs are unfairness to those hard working, law-abiding immigrants who are already waiting their opportunity to enter this country.

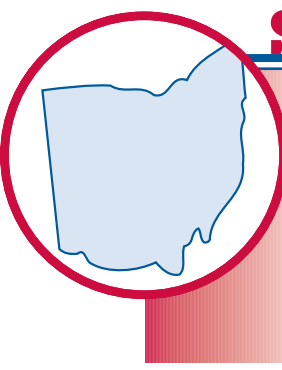
BETTY SUTTON
Party: Democrat

Education: Barberton High School, 1981; Kent State University, BA in Political Science 1985; University of Akron, Juris Doctor, 1990.
Occupation: United States Congresswoman (OH-13)
Training and Experience: Barberton City

Council, 1990; Summit County Council, 1991-1992; State Representative 1993-2000.
Response to Questions:
1) We must ensure that every American has access to quality and affordable healthcare. I am a cosponsor of the U. S. National Health Insurance Act, to provide comprehensive health insurance coverage for all Americans. We must immediately focus on ensuring that our children have access to the healthcare they need. I was

proud to have voted for and stood up against President Bush's veto to expand SCHIP coverage to ten million children in this country and over 160,000 children in Ohio. Ensuring every American has access to quality and affordable healthcare is important for our economy, businesses and our communities.
2) We need comprehensive immigration reform that tightens security at the border, provides stricter enforcement and tougher penalties on

employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants and profit by driving down wages and incomes of workers. But rounding up 12 million illegal immigrants and deporting them is unrealistic. We must hold people who crossed the border responsible by requiring them to earn their citizenship, pay taxes, and learn English, as well as the basics of American civics and government.



State Representatives

(Various parts of Lorain County are in the 56th, 57th or 58th House District.)

Term: 2 years **Salary:** \$60,584 **VOTE FOR ONE**

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

Questions to 56th and 57th House District candidates:
1) What are your health-care issue priorities, and where would you fund them?
2) Since November 2001, the United States has added more than 7.3 million jobs, or a gain of 5.6 percent. Only three states – Massachusetts, Michigan and Ohio—have not added jobs since the end of the recession. What steps would you propose or support to increase jobs in Ohio?

Question to 58th House District candidates:
1) What should be done to make Ohio more business friendly?

State Representative, 56th House District (Oberlin, South Amherst, Elyria, Lorain)

JOSEPH F. KOZIURA
Party: Democrat

No Response Received

UNOPPOSED

State Representative, 57th House District (Carlisle, Eaton, North Ridgeville)

MATT LUNDY
Party: Democrat

Education: B. S. Human Resource Mgmt. Friends University (Wichita, KS)

Graduate of LCCC
Occupation: State Representative (57th District)
Training and Experience: Former Avon Lake Council-at-Large

Response to Questions:
1) Health insurance for all children, better coverage for diabetes, autism and cancer screenings.
2) I supported the Building Ohio Jobs

Program to provide incentives to bring jobs to Ohio. We must compete in the new field of energy and renewable energy jobs. We must keep tuition affordable to have a well-educated workforce to attract employers.

DANIEL C. URBAN
Party: Republican

Education: Yale University (B.A., 1993); Cleveland-Marshall College of Law (J.D., cum laude, 1996)
Occupation: Attorney
Training and Experience: Avon City Council (2006-Present); Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board

(2004-2008)
Response to Questions:
1) To bring meaningful affordability, access and equity to health care, broad reform is necessary. Such reform must reduce costs while improving quality and focus on the empowerment and responsibility of individual consumers. Any plan should consider (a) requiring everyone to have basic insurance coverage, (b) reforming the insurance system so no one can be denied coverage

and so costs are fairly shared and (c) instituting a system of subsidies, based on family income, so that everyone can afford coverage. Coverage and funding could come from any available source such as employer-based insurance, individual insurance or existing public programs.
2) Simply put, Ohio's business climate must become more attractive to businesses. By reducing state and local tax burdens, businesses will be able to invest in capital

improvements and job creation. Ohio must also reduce regulatory burdens that cause businesses to waste time and money. Improving these two areas will allow companies to make the business case to do business here rather than in another state. In short, businesses thrive and create economic opportunity when government does not unnecessarily interfere. Ohio must also develop a well-educated and trained workforce, which will attract business to this state.

State Representative, 58th House District (Pittsfield, Wellington, LaGrange, Grafton, Henrietta, Amherst, Vermilion)

TERRY R. BOOSE
Party: Republican

No Response Received

TERRANCE A. TRASTER
Party: Democrat

Occupation: Construction Supervisor at the Amherst Historical Society
Education: Amherst Marion L. Steele High School Class of 1975
Training and Experience: Journey Man Status in Construction and Pattern

Making, Amherst City Council 10 Years, Design Review Board, Zoning Board
Response to Question:
There are numerous ways to make Ohio more business friendly. We can make Ohio a more business-friendly state by first investing in technology and research. This would create more opportunities for businesses to create and invest in the jobs of tomorrow. It is this area that holds the most

promise for Ohio's future. We MUST keep our college graduates in Ohio; however, the only way to do that is to create jobs they can work at. It is very important to keep Ohio's best and brightest within the state and even attract more talent with jobs and opportunities that would work best for them. We should work with Lee Fisher and the Ohio Department of Development to make Ohio an environmental friendly state, that is,

create "green" jobs for our working class citizens to become a part of. The 58th district holds tremendous opportunities in this field. We should utilize our resources to turn wind into electricity and our crops into fuel for our cars. And of course we need to create tax cuts to both small and large businesses that stay in Ohio so we can keep the jobs that we have.

County Commissioner

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$74,879

VOTE FOR ONE EACH TERM

Job Description: To exercise financial control of County expenditures, to authorize public works, to purchase land and buildings, to let contracts, to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners appoints other officials to operate various departments.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) What do you propose to do about the financial crisis in the county especially in relation to a) cutbacks in public transportation and b) ever increasing court costs?

County Commissioner, term commencing 1.2.09

LORI KOKOSKI

Party: Democrat

Education: Graduate of Marion L. Steel and JVS. Also attended LCCC to complete courses needed to obtain my Real Estate license.

Occupation: Currently serving as your Lorain County Commissioner.

Training and Experience: Held the office as the 8th Ward Council Representative in the city of Lorain for three consecutive terms. I also worked for the Auditor's office as a sales reviewer. Was employed by CHP, Oak Hills Nursing

Center and the Steelworkers Re-employment Program.

Response to Questions:

1. Continue to bring new jobs to Lorain County. In the last two years over 2,400 jobs were created. Continue to find ways of increasing our revenue. The increase in filing fees for foreclosures instituted this year

should bring in over \$600,000 a year. (The mortgage companies pay these fees.) A study is being conducted in relation to the courts system to see how we can economize and speed up the processes. The County is mandated by the State to perform many of our functions. Unfortunately public transportation is one of the non-mandated services looked at if cuts are needed.

MARTIN E. O'DONNELL

Party: Republican

Education: Graduate of The Ohio State University (BA Education) Graduate of Cleveland State University Leadership Academy

Occupation: Retired Deputy Director of the Cuyahoga County Child Support Enforcement Agency (33 years) Presently serving as Councilman-At-Large in the City of Avon Lake (Serving a second term)

Served 12 years on the Lakewood Board of Education (Board President for 4 years)

Training and Experience: I have a blend of County, City and Educational experience in the public sectors. My over 30 years of county experience was in budgeting, planning and customer service in running an agency.

Response to Question:

Cutbacks in Public Transportation I would restore the recent \$500,000 bus line cuts made by Commissioner Kokoski. The recent high price of gas a \$4.00 a gallon has

caused families to use public transportation on an increased scale over the past 6 months in Lorain County. Families are driving less in order to pay for rising food and energy costs affecting their daily living. Families need public transportation to get to work, school, childcare locations and for the elderly to get to their doctors. The County has the funds to cover this cut and should be pursuing the State for additional funding for local bus systems.

Ever Increasing Court Costs

We need to maintain adequate staff, identify cost drivers and ineffectiveness in the

Judicial System. We should be maximizing all local revenue streams and Federal/State grants to assist in funding the courts. The examination of programs which reduce the recidivism at all levels through diversion and mentoring programs can reduce repeat offenders. Monitoring Court timelines and cost from arrest to dispositions related to cases. Community work programs and mental health services for certain defenders may assist in reducing cases to court.

County Commissioner, term commencing 1.3.09

NICHOLAS W. BRUSKY

Party: Republican

No Response Received

TED KALO

Party: Democrat

Education: Graduate 1979 Admiral King High School Attended Cleveland State University Attended Lorain County Community College

Occupation: President, Teds Floorcoverings, Inc.

Training and Experience:

I have spent my entire professional career in the

private sector until being elected to my first term as County Commissioner in 2004. I have also been involved in many business, civic, and political groups throughout my career. I believe my experience working with varied groups gives me insight as to the needs of Lorain County.

Response to Question:

We are working diligently at maintaining services while decreasing personnel under our current budget. We have been able to actually increase revenues to some of our departments by changing fees such as dog kennel, foreclo-

sure filings, and increase in fares for transit for riders while still keeping us at or below state averages. We are working with the state legislature on additional funding sources.

1. We have stalled off any additional cutbacks to transit in light of increased gas prices and an increase in our ridership. We have negotiated with the Governor's office through NOACA to supply emergency funds to help all transit systems in our region. We will be receiving anywhere from 110K to 500K by October and are petitioning the state to increase funding through

the economic stimulus package explicitly for transit.

2. We have been able to keep all of the safety departments whole when it comes to their budgets but it has put a strain on our general fund. I have made my concerns very public about the Family Court issue and hope the state agrees that this should be held off until better economic times. We will need to look once again at enhancing revenue locally if we do not get more participation from the state.

County Prosecutor

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$112,552

UNOPPOSED

Job Description: To serve as chief legal officer of the County and as a member of the County Budget Commission. To investigate and prosecute crimes committed in the county. To advise county officers and boards, township officers, and county school district officers and boards.

DENNIS P. WILL

No Response Received

County Clerk of Court

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$66,415

UNOPPOSED

Job Description: Responsible to the appellate and common pleas courts, entering judgments and collecting court costs. Also issues and transfers automobile and water craft certificates of title.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) What suggestions do you have to control the costs of your office in light of budget constraints?
- 2) What challenges do you foresee and how do you propose to address those issues?

RONALD L. NABAKOWSKI

Party: Democrat

Education: Certificate programs: Ohio Executive Institute (1988-89); Ford Marketing Institute (1964); Associate Degrees: Lorain County Community College; Attended: John Carroll Univ.,

Baldwin-Wallace College; Kent State (Elyria Extension); Ohio University School of Banking.

Occupation: Clerk of Court of Common Pleas of Lorain County since January, 2000

Training and Experience: President, Benchmarkers, Inc.; Executive Director, Ohio Lottery; County Commissioner,

Lorain County; State Senator, 13th District; Lorain City Auditor; Bank Manager & Loan officer.

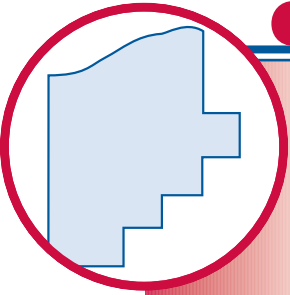
Response to Questions:

1) I have installed a new case-management system, which allowed us to deal with unprecedented increases in volume of cases (primarily foreclosure and criminal) without

adding new personnel.

2) Ohio Courts will be moving soon to electronic filing. The new case management system was installed with this in mind. I am eager to begin this transition, which should increase our efficiency and ability to cope with still greater increases in volume of work to be processed.

County Sheriff



Term: 4 years

Salary: \$81,877

UNOPPOSED

Job Description: To serve as chief law enforcement officer of the county and as custodian of the county jail and its inmates. To apprehend criminals and persons alleged to have violated state laws. To receive and execute any writs from the appellate, common please and probate courts. To have auctions of property taken for nonpayment of taxes.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) What suggestions do you have to control the costs of your office in light of budget constraints?
- 2) What challenges do you foresee for the office of County Sheriff in the coming term, and how do you propose to address those issues or concerns?

PHIL R. STAMMITI
Party: Democrat

Education: Graduated from Lorain High School in 1968, graduated from Lorain County Community College with an Associate Degree in Police Science with Honors, and graduated from the National Sheriff's Institute in 2002. Also, certified through the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association as a Certified Law Enforcement Manager (CLEM Award).
Occupation: Lorain County Sheriff

Training & Experience: 35+ years in law enforcement, the past 8 years as Lorain County Sheriff. 13 years at the Lorain Police Department, and over 22 years at the Sheriff's Office. At the Sheriff's Office I have been in charge of the Detective Bureau, Road Patrol, Jail Division, and the Personnel Administrative Captain.

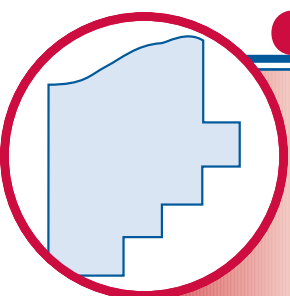
Response to Questions:

1) With the high cost of fuel, we've taken measures to cut gasoline consumption. Officers park their cruisers in highly visible areas every 15 minutes of each hour. They also

work out of the seven sub-stations for typing of their reports, which cuts down fuel consumption. We are labor intensive and need personnel to answer calls, but we are also watching our purchases and supplies to further control costs. We have been working with the courts to cut down on the subpoena's to officers, unless the officers are absolutely needed to testify, this cuts down on overtime for going to court
2) Challenges will be addressing the overcrowding at the County Jail, maintaining enough deputies to patrol the townships as well as perform mandated duties placed on a sher-

iff's office, such as; court security, sexual offender registration and notifications, CCW applications & permits, serving warrants, transporting prisoners, etc. I need to work cooperatively with the Commissioners as well as the township trustee's to ensure the proper resources are provided to operate in the most efficient manner. I must also keep the citizens apprised of the need for additional jail space and alternative programs for inmates to ensure the safety of all concerned.

County Recorder



Term: 4 years

Salary: \$63,484

UNOPPOSED

Job Description: Record deeds, mortgages, plats, leases, powers of attorney, and proceedings of annexation and municipal incorporation. Serves as a member of the County Records Commission, which is responsible for disposing of outdated county records.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) What suggestions do you have to control the costs of your office in light of budget constraints?
- 2) What challenges do you foresee for the office of County Recorder in the coming term, and how do you propose to address those issues or concerns?

JUDY NEDWICK
Party: Democrat

Education : 1961 Elyria Catholic High School
Occupation : Lorain County Recorder
Training and Experience: I spent 20 years with the Lorain County Auditor's office working with real estate transfers. I have taken several real estate classes at

Lorain County Community College. I am active in the Ohio Recorder's Association. The O.R.A. provides continuing education credit units for Ohio county recorders. I will become the O.R.A. President in 2009.

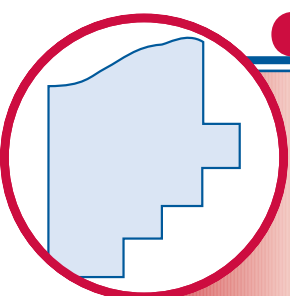
Response to Questions:

1) I have reduced the usage of county-paid postage by scanning and returning submitted records immediately. I am working to reduce the square footage requirements for my office by continuously scanning older

records. This allows the office to remove, relocate or destroy old books. All records are backed up on microfilm as well as being stored electronically on two separate computers. Reducing this office "footprint" reduces electricity and utility usage by the office. I also believe a responsible, overtime policy keeps costs down.
2) I feel the single largest challenge will be a decrease in operating budget. I also foresee the need for new technology and work flow

to make this already efficient office, even more efficient. To address the challenge of a cut budget, I have already started reducing the use of outside vendors by utilizing the current office staff. This use of in-house staff reduces the office's overall expenses. To address the challenge of higher efficiency, I plan to investigate any available avenues using new and emerging technologies. I believe that a good staff, and proper use of good technology, make a better, more efficient office.

County Treasurer



Term: 4 years

Salary: \$66,415

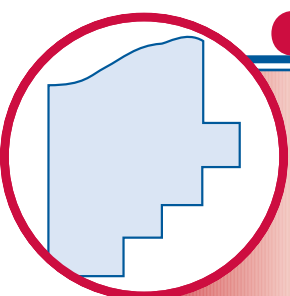
UNOPPOSED

Job Description: Collects taxes in the county and its subdivisions, including certain state taxes. Invests and distributes tax monies to the state or governmental subdivision for which they were collected. Serves as a member of the County Budget Commission and the Board of Revision.

DANIEL TALAREK
Party: Democrat

No Response Received

County Engineer



Term: 4 years

Salary: \$96,507

UNOPPOSED

Job Description: To plan and contract for the construction, maintenance and repair of bridges, roads, and other public improvement, except buildings constructed under the authority of any board in and for the county.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) What suggestions do you have to control the costs of your office in light of budget constraints?
- 2) What challenges do you foresee for the office of County Engineer in the coming term, and how do you propose to address those issues or concerns?

KENNETH P. CARNEY
Party: Democrat

Education: Lorain High 1966, LCCC 1969 (Associate)
Occupation: Lorain County Engineer
Training and Experience: 5 terms as Lorain County Engineer with additional studies in Sanitary Design and Survey Law. Presently Chairman of the Ohio Public

Works Commission, District 9. Past President of the County Engineer's Association of Ohio N.E. District. Past President of American Society of Highway Engineers N.E. District. Presently NOACA Board Member and seven advisory committees.

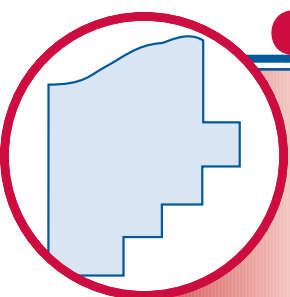
Response to Questions:

1) The office of the County Engineer is not general funded by the County Commissioners. Our funding sources are Motor Vehicle license plate fees and gasoline

taxes. The County Engineer's budget has always been sound and we will continue to monitor our expenses daily.
2) To remove or to restrict the use of the weighted vote within NOACA approving and funding projects in Lorain County. I am closely involved in this and support its restriction. This would insure faster funding and the completion of Federal Aid Road Improvements in the cities and villages my office is presently engineering. (\$38.2 mil-

lion). It would also help in funding the completion of various County Road Improvements being engineered in-house (\$9.1 million). Continuing partnerships with Federal authorities and planning organizations are important. This has more than doubled federal funding resulting in millions of tax dollars being returned to Lorain County each year.

County Coroner



Term: 4 years

Salary: \$112,552

UNOPPOSED

Job Description: To determine the cause of death of every person who dies by criminal or violent means, by casualty, suicide, or unusual manner.

Question: Just what purpose does a county coroner serve?

PAUL M. MATUS
Party: Republican

Education: Oberlin College, 1972 BA, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine 1976 MD. Grant Medical Center Residency 1979.

Occupation: Physician / Coroner
Training and Experience: In practice 29 years.
Response to Question: The coroner's duty is to speak for the dead. In Ohio, coroners are required to be physicians and to be available twenty-four hours a day to conduct death investigations. Ohio law requires that coroners investigate deaths due

to violence, accident, homicide, or suicide; deaths which occurred in a suspicious or unusual manner while in custody, and deaths which happened unexpectedly when the decedent was in apparently good health. As a result of the complexities of modern day society and pitfalls of litigation, the coroner cannot afford to overlook any detail. He must utilize many new forensic technologies

and death investigation techniques to assure valid conclusions concerning the circumstances and cause of a death. Today, the citizens and the legal system do not want to know just the cause and manner of death but also who, what, where, when and why, which frequently can only be determined by the coroner.

All final elections for judicial candidates are non-partisan. Consequently, no party affiliations appear in the Voter Guide for these candidates, nor will they appear on the official ballot.

Supreme Court Justice

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$141,600

VOTE FOR ONE EACH TERM

Job Description: To hear all cases involving questions arising under the Ohio Constitution or statutes; to hear appeals from Courts of Appellate decisions. The Supreme Court's decisions are final except in cases involving the U. S. Constitution, statutes, or treaties.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) What is your response to research indicating that judicial decisions tend to favor large campaign contributors?
- 2) Do you believe that all Ohioans have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can be done to provide wider and better access?

Supreme Court Justice, term commencing 1.1.09

MAUREEN O'CONNOR

Biographical Information:

<http://www.oconnorforjustice.com/about.php>

Response to Questions:

1) I do not agree that objective research indicates that decisions of the courts favor campaign contributors. Contributions follow the philosophy of a justice, not the other way around. There are limits on the dollar amount for contributions. These amounts are deemed reasonable and as long as Ohio maintains an elected selection process for our

judiciary and the contributors follow the law on campaign limits and there is open disclosure, the system should work as it is intended.

2) Ohio has a good system of representation for those who are unable to afford legal representation. Our members of the bar are generous in their efforts to provide services.

Having said that I believe that any system can be improved upon and ours is no exception. The bar in Ohio is encouraged to participate in rendering pro bono services. I believe that an expansion of the program to start in law school will assist in creating and expanding a culture of pro bono representation among the new lawyers.

JOSEPH RUSSO

Biographical Information:

<http://www.judgerussoforjustice.com/about.htm>

Response to Questions:

1) I am very concerned by public surveys that find that 83% of voters believe campaign contributions influence the decisions of the Ohio Supreme Court. Numerous newspaper articles have pointed

to a correlation between campaign contributions and the votes of members of our Court. The New York Times in the article "Campaign Cash Mirrors a High Court's Rulings" points to a correlation between campaign contributions and individual Ohio Supreme Court Justice's votes in judicial decisions in Ohio. In that article, the Times states that Ohio Supreme Court Justices "routinely sat on cases after receiving campaign contributions from the parties involved" and "on average . . . voted in favor of contributors 70 percent of the

time." My opponent votes in favor of her contributors 74% of the time. I have proposed a rule that would force Justices to disqualify themselves from cases involving their largest contributors. My opponent opposes this rule.

2) Ohioans do not have adequate access to legal help. There are several ways to provide wider and better access. First, for simple cases, we must make forms and instruction available to the general public, as they have in Maricopa County, Arizona, where they have thrown open the doors of the

courthouse to the general public with help from court staff and law school students to enable the general public to access the legal system and settle their simple disputes often without the help of a lawyer. In addition, I believe that we must properly fund our legal clinics throughout the state so that the public has access to attorneys to handle more intricate legal matters. Finally, a rule requiring every attorney in the State, as part of their Continuing Legal Education requirements, to provide pro bono services to the public should be considered.

Supreme Court Justice, term commencing 1.2.09

PETER M. SIKORA

Biographical Information:

<http://www.sikoraforjustice.com/About.html>

Response to Questions:

1) The strength of our judiciary rests in the confidence Ohioans have in the fairness and impartiality of the court. The legitimacy of the court is undermined when studies show people believe contributions influence decisions. There is a serious need to restore confidence in the court, based on the fact that Supreme Court Justices routinely sit on

cases after receiving campaign contributions from the parties involved or from groups that filed supporting briefs. On average, they voted in favor of the contributors 70% of the time. This emphasizes the need for balance on the court – so that every citizen can be assured that all perspectives will be considered before decisions are made.

2) As a society we need to ensure that people have access to affordable quality legal assistance. It is incumbent upon all of us – as well as those in the legal profession – to come forward and assist those who can not afford representation. Specifically, this includes an increase in pro-bono efforts in the legal community.

EVELYN L. STRATTON

Biographical Information:

http://www.strattonforsupremecourt.com/?page=about_justice_stratton

Response to Question:

1) I believe this portrays an inaccurate perception of the judiciary that is fueled by

the media, not by reality. A New York Times article, published two years ago, reported that I had voted in favor of my contributors in 55% of the cases in which I participated through March 2006. This was the lowest percentage attributed to any justice identified. However, this also indicated that in 45% of those cases I had voted against those who had contributed to my campaign. The vast majority of the contributions to my last campaign were \$100 or less. In addition, there are now campaign limits of \$3000 per

person and \$5500 per political action committee. These limits greatly reduce the ability of a contributor to use the size of a contribution to influence a judge's decision.

2) No. The availability of legal resources for those unable to afford an attorney is a problem in Ohio. In an effort to help persons gain access to the courts, the Supreme Court of Ohio supports the Legal Aid Society and provides financial assistance to the group. The Court is in the process of developing legal forms to assist persons in

legal matters which should result in better access to the courts. I also have supported efforts to recruit and train attorneys to provide pro bono services to qualified homeowners in foreclosure cases. Attorneys should be encouraged to assist those who cannot afford an attorney in all areas of the law. I will also focus efforts on pro bono services for Ohio's military veterans and reserve troops in my work on mental health court reforms.

Judge, Court of Appeals, 9th Appellate District

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$132,000

VOTE FOR ONE

Job Description: The Court of Appeals is essentially a Court of Review. It hears appeals from the Common Pleas, County and Municipal Courts. Decisions are final except in cases involving Constitutional questions, cases of felony, cases in which it has original jurisdiction, and cases of public or great general interest.

Questions to candidates:

- 1) How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
- 2) Under Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct (Canon 3), judges should disqualify themselves when they cannot perform their duties "impartially or diligently." What specific criteria would you use to determine whether to recuse yourself from cases involving parties or attorneys who contributed to your campaign?

EVE BELFANCE

Education: Yale University, BA, 1984; Rotary Club Graduate Scholar 1984-85; Case Western Reserve School of Law, JD, 1990, *cum laude*

Occupation: Judge
Training and Experience: As judge: handled hundreds of civil and criminal matters, conducted civil and criminal jury trials

and bench trials, performed extensive research, and issued opinions on civil and criminal matters; 18 years broad legal experience; expertise in appellate law; successfully argued appeals in state and federal court; former federal judicial attorney, Washington, D.C.

Response to Questions:

1) I have been devoted to the law and public service. I believe I bring to this position judicial experience, scholarship, a rigorous academic foundation, and an understanding of complex legal issues, all of which are neces-

sary to ensure that the decisions of the Court of Appeals are fair, well-reasoned and grounded in the law. As a judge, I have handled hundreds of criminal and civil cases, and conducted criminal and civil jury trials and bench trials. I perform many of the duties that appellate judges perform: I extensively research the law, issue written decisions, and decide objections to magistrates' decisions.

2) Presently, campaign finance rules prohibit a judge or judicial candidate from directly soliciting funds or directly receiving funds

from a donor. Solicitations must be made only through the candidate's committee. Notwithstanding the judicial candidate's lack of direct involvement in the solicitation and receipt of funds, there has been recent attention regarding the current campaign finance system. As a judge, I strictly adhere to the specific guidelines set forth in the Canons regarding recusal. Full disclosure to parties and attorneys is critical in order to maintain confidence that justice will be administered fairly and impartially.

WILLIAM D. WELLEMAYER

Education: BA Economics & JD, University of Akron

Occupation: Attorney

Training and Experience: Assistant prosecuting attorney, Appeals Division Summit County Prosecutor - 250 cases handled in the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ninth District

Court of Appeals; Mediator in over 500 cases in Summit County Court of Common Pleas; Judicial Attorney, Summit County Court of Common Pleas; Arbitrator, Summit County Court of Common Pleas; Senior Quality Editor, LexisNexis Case Law Summaries.

Response to questions:

1) My life experience has taught me that each person has inherent dignity and that judges must exercise judicial restraint if justice and stability are to prevail in our society. Because in

most cases the appeals court provides the final opportunity for parties to have their arguments heard, its judges must be able to listen critically, synthesize facts, analyze arguments, distill truth, and reach logical decisions with clarity and purpose. My extensive appeals court experience and my many years as a mediator and judicial attorney in the common pleas courts have prepared me well to aptly carry out these great responsibilities.

2) Section (E) of Canon 3 provides several specific criteria for judges to apply when con-

sidering whether they should disqualify themselves from a proceeding. While this list is not exhaustive, it sets out specific sets of circumstances for consideration. The major question on my part would be whether I would be able to carry out my function of seeking and preserving justice to the best of my abilities when measured against these benchmarks, and with reliance on my well-formed conscience. Were I to determine that my impartiality might reasonably be questioned in light of this analysis, I would recuse myself.

Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$121,350

(NEW SEAT) / UNOPPOSED

Job Description: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury and other departments of the court.

JAMES T. WALTHER

No Response Received

State Ballot Issues 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

For more information on State Ballot Issues 1, 2, 3, 5, 6; visit:

lwvoa.com

Issue 1 Proposed Constitutional Amendment to provide for earlier filing deadlines for Statewide Ballot Issues

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio. To amend Sections 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1g of Article II of the Ohio Constitution. If approved, this proposed amendment will be effective immediately.

A **YES** vote means approval of the amendment. A **NO** vote means disapproval of the amendment. A majority **YES** vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

League Explanation of Issue 1:

- This proposed constitutional amendment seeks to make the petition filing deadlines earlier for statewide ballot issues. Currently, the deadlines are 90 days before the election for statewide initiative petitions (laws and constitutional amendments proposed by citizens) and 60 days for statewide referendums (citizen-initiated votes to repeal new laws). The amendment would change these deadlines to 125 days for both.
- The proposal adds deadlines for public officials to act on the petitions. It requires the secretary of state to determine whether there are enough valid signatures on a petition by the 105th day before the election. Challenges must be filed in the Ohio Supreme Court not later than 95 days prior to the election. The Ohio

Supreme Court must make its decision not later than 85 days prior to the election. If necessary, 10 additional days shall be allowed for the filing of additional signatures. The secretary of state shall check the additional signatures not later than 65 days before the election. Any challenges must be filed in the Ohio Supreme Court not later than 55 days before the election, and the court must rule on any challenges not later than 45 days before the election. If no ruling is made, the petition and signatures shall be presumed to be sufficient.

- The proposed amendment would give the Ohio Supreme Court sole authority to consider these cases. Currently lower courts may hear these challenges.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- The earlier deadlines will allow more time to determine the validity of the petition and the signatures. This should reduce the number of invalid issues that appear on ballots and reduce voter confusion.
- If deadlines are met, absentee voters and election-day voters will know which issues were supported by sufficient valid petitions.
- The process should be more efficient because the amendment provides for specific deadlines for each step of the process.
- Having the Ohio Supreme Court as the sole arbiter of challenges expedites the process.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- The revised deadlines may still not

allow time to print correct ballots.

- The revised deadlines decrease the time for each step of the review and may be difficult to meet.
- The earlier deadlines for referenda may result in long delays for voter consideration of challenged laws because laws challenged by the referendum process are suspended until approved by voters. Challengers have 90 days after a law is passed to file a referendum petition. Because this may not be completed before the filing deadline for ballot issues, a vote on the challenged law may be postponed until the following general election.
- As sole arbiter of challenges, the Ohio Supreme Court will not have the benefit of a record from lower courts.

Issue 2 Proposed Constitutional Amendment to authorize the State to issue bonds to continue the Clean Ohio Program for environmental, revitalization and conservation purposes

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio To adopt Section 2q of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. If approved, this proposed amendment shall take effect immediately.

A **YES** vote means approval of the amendment. A **NO** vote means disapproval of the amendment. A majority **YES** vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

League Explanation of Issue 2:

This ballot issue proposes a constitutional amendment that would add to funding for The Clean Ohio Program. The amendment is identical to the bond issue passed by the voters in 2000 and will provide the state with the authority to issue an additional \$400 million of bonds. These bonds could be used for the benefit of both governmental and non-governmental entities.

- Conservation: Up to \$200 million in bonds could be issued for conservation purposes such as preservation of natural areas and farmlands, provision of recreation facilities, and natural resource management projects. Repayment of these bonds would be a general obligation of the state backed by the taxing power of the state.
- Revitalization: Up to \$200 million in bonds could be issued for revitalization purposes such as environmental cleanup

of publicly or privately owned lands. Repayment of these bonds would be secured by specific state revenues such as receipts from liquor taxes.

- Limitations: The proposed amendment limits the amount that could be borrowed in any one fiscal year for either conservation or revitalization purposes to no more than \$50 million. In addition the state can borrow amounts which were authorized but not issued in prior fiscal years.
- Reissuance: After a bond is repaid, another can be issued as long as the total amount outstanding does not exceed \$200 million for that type of bond.
- Debt Service Expense: The Legislative Services Commission estimates that issuing \$400 million of obligations could increase the state's annual debt service expense by up to \$40 million.

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management calculated that principle and interest payable in 2008 for all of the bonds already issued by Ohio is \$1,231,640,023.

- This bonding authority must be approved by the voters because the Ohio constitution does not permit an appropriation being made for a period longer than two years.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- Bond monies could be used to improve drinking water, help keep rivers and streams clean, preserve and protect wildlife and farmland, and expand outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans.
- Bond monies could be used to reduce the number of polluted industrial sites and clean up brown fields.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

- Tax monies will be diverted to paying principle and interest, and this may limit the availability of state revenue for other state programs.
- This authority is not time-limited and permits new bonds to be reissued after the retirement of the original bonds without further vote of the people.
- Proceeds from the sale of the publicly funded bonds may be used to benefit private entities.

Issue 3 Proposed Constitutional Amendment to amend the Constitution to protect private property rights in ground water, lakes and other watercourses (Continued on page 10.)

Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio. To adopt Section 19b of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. If approved, this amendment shall take effect December 1, 2008.

A **YES** vote means approval of the amendment. A **NO** vote means disapproval of the amendment. A majority **YES** vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

Issue 3 (Continued from page 9.)

League Explanation of Issue 3: This proposed amendment resulted from the Ohio legislature's passage of the Great Lakes Water Compact this past spring. Some lawmakers feared final approval of the Compact might limit private water rights. The constitutional amendment is intended to recognize that:

- Property owners have a protected right to the "reasonable use" of the ground water flowing under their property, and of the water in a lake or watercourse that is on or flows through their property.
- An owner has the right to give or sell

these interests to a governmental body.

- The public welfare supersedes individual property owners' rights. The state and political subdivisions may regulate such waters to the extent state law allows.
- The proposed amendment would not affect public use of Lake Erie and the state's other navigable waters.
- The rights confirmed by this amendment may not be limited by sections of the Ohio Constitution addressing home rule, public debt and public works, conservation of natural resources, and the prohibition of the

use of "initiative" and "referendum" on property taxes.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. This amendment, if approved, is intended to reaffirm the rights and expectations of Ohio landowners to have reasonable use of the water on or under their properties.
2. The proposed amendment does not establish absolute private ownership of water.
3. It reiterates the state's right to regulate water use and water quality.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The amendment is unnecessary because current Ohio case law already recognizes property owners' interests in the reasonable use of surface and groundwater.
2. The Ohio Constitution should be a body of fundamental principles, and should not be amended unless there is a compelling reason.
3. The amendment could cause unexpected consequences and unintentional changes in current law.

Issue 5 Referendum on legislation making changes to payday lending practices

A referendum on Section 3, House Bill 545. If approved, changes regulating payday lenders would go into effect immediately.

A **YES** vote will cap the annual interest rate on payday loans at 28% and allow only the new regulations to apply to payday lenders. A **NO** vote may allow payday lenders to charge up to 391% annual interest on a loan. Specifically, a **NO** vote may create a situation in which both the old and new laws coexist—thereby allowing payday lenders to choose to operate under either law. A majority **YES** vote will allow only the new regulations affecting payday lenders to be in effect.

League Explanation of Issue 5: Voters are being asked if they want to uphold the legislature's repeal of lenders' authority to charge interest that could be as high as 391%. If the referendum is approved (the "yes" votes prevail), all short term lenders, including payday lenders, would be subject to the following limitations:

- Cap the interest that payday lenders can charge consumers at 28%.
- Limit the amount consumers may borrow from payday lenders to 25% of their monthly income, up to \$500 per loan.
- Limit consumers to four short-term loans per year.
- Provide for a minimum of at least 30 days for a borrower to repay a loan.

Proponents of the referendum argue that:

1. The new regulations would cap the interest for payday loans at 28%, which effectively ends lenders' ability to charge up to 391% interest.
2. Limiting the number of loans customers can take out annually would help break the cycle of debt in which many customers find themselves trapped. Data show that 99% of payday loans go to repeat borrowers—who typically take out 12 or more loans a year.
3. Passage of Issue 5 would give borrowers more time to repay a loan—and by limiting the amount a consumer can borrow, would help

insure that customers do not borrow more than they can afford to repay.

Opponents of the referendum argue that:

1. The 28% ceiling on interest rates will not allow lenders to make enough profit to stay in business; lenders will be forced to close locations convenient for borrowers and jobs will be lost.
2. The loans provide emergency assistance to cash-strapped borrowers who have no other credit options—and the loans are more affordable, if repaid promptly, than bank overdraft fees and credit card late fees.
3. A borrower's choice is limited if the

number of loans available in a year and the amount of each loan are curtailed. Each borrower should have the right to make their own financial decisions without government restrictions.

Websites:

In support of placing new restrictions on payday lenders: PROTECT HB 545 Committee (<http://www.yesonissue5.com/>)

In opposition to placing new restrictions on payday lenders: The Committee to Reject H.B. 545 (www.ohioans4financialfreedom.com)

Issue 6 Proposed Constitutional Amendment to authorize a casino in Clinton County, Ohio

Proposed by Initiative Petition. To add a new Section 6a to Article XV of the Ohio Constitution. If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 30 days after the election.

A **YES** vote means approval of the amendment. A **NO** vote means disapproval of the amendment. A majority **YES** vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

League Explanation of Issue 6: This amendment would authorize a privately-owned casino in Clinton County.

1. The operator would be required to pay a tax of up to 30% annually on gross casino receipts. "Gross casino receipts" excludes payments to winners. The tax would be allocated in the following ways:
 - The Ohio General Assembly would have the authority to determine a reasonable amount to be used to fund a Gaming Regulatory Commission, and receipts will be used to pay the expenses of administering the tax.
 - Up to 1% of the tax collected would be used to fund prevention and treatment programs for gambling addicts.
 - Following those expenditures, 10% of any remaining casino tax receipts would be distributed to Clinton County, and the remaining receipts distributed among all 88 Ohio counties on a per capita basis, to be used as each county sees fit.

2. If another casino were permitted in Ohio, the tax on the Clinton County casino would drop to 25% of the gross casino receipts or the rate paid by the additional casino, whichever is less.
3. The casino operator must make a minimum initial investment of \$600 million for the development of a destination resort that would include the casino, a hotel and other related amenities.
4. The state may establish an initial license fee not to exceed \$15 million, which will be credited against the first \$15 million of taxes on gross casino receipts. There can be no further licensing fees for the Clinton County casino.
5. The state may not limit the amounts of the wagers or the hours of operation. The casino may conduct any type of card or table games, slot machines or electronic gaming devices permitted by the state of Nevada and states adjacent to Ohio, except bets on races or sporting events.
6. Persons must be 21 years old to place wagers at the casino.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Thirty-eight states—including Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—have casino gambling. By authorizing a casino in Ohio, the profits could benefit our state rather than other states.
2. All counties in Ohio may receive tax revenue generated by the casino, and each county can decide how to best spend its money.
3. The casino will also be required to pay all other applicable taxes.
4. The casino will create jobs in Clinton County.
5. The casino will stimulate the economy by adding restaurants, hotels and ancillary businesses.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The Ohio general revenue fund, which supports basic services for Ohioans, will get \$0 from the gross casino receipts tax.
2. If an additional casino were an Indian casino, which is exempt from taxes, the Clinton County

casino might not pay any taxes, either, on the gross casino receipts.

3. Ohioans may spend money at the casino they would have spent at other existing Ohio businesses such as restaurants, movies, or sports events, adversely impacting those businesses.
4. Ohio lottery profits, currently dedicated to education, may decrease because people will gamble at the casino instead of playing the lottery.
5. The number of gambling addicts in Ohio would increase, and the tax receipts dedicated to providing treatment for addicts (0.3% of gross casino receipts) could be insufficient.

Websites

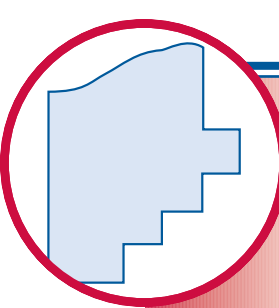
In support of the proposed amendment: My Ohio Now (<http://www.yesonissue6.com/>)

In opposition to the proposed amendment: Vote No Casinos (www.votencasinos.com)

County, Municipal, Township, School and Other Issues

There is no Lorain County-wide issue on the November Ballot. There are numerous local issues on the ballot. To find the issues in your particular area consult the Issue List provided by the Lorain County Board of Elections at:

<http://lorainboe.erienet.net/2008%20General%20Ballot.htm>



Types of Levies:

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Additional Levy is a new levy voted for the first time for a specific purpose and rate.

Renewal Levy is a continuation of an existing levy for the same purpose at the current millage which has been reduced by House Bill 920 (Inflation Fighter). The taxpayer is not being

asked to pay any more money than was originally authorized by vote.

Replacement Levy is an existing levy for a specific purpose at the original rate intended to increase revenue on a higher tax base. A higher tax base occurs annually due to new construction, reappraisals, or updates.

Charter Amendment is a proposed change to a municipality's governing document.