

League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area Voter Guide

Democratic Ballot

Primary Election - May 4, 2010

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

Prior to each state and national election, the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund provides nonpartisan information on candidates and issues to its local Leagues. This information is used in Voter Guides, which are distributed by local Leagues throughout the state.

Note: Every candidate on the ballot is listed. Only those candidates that are in **CONTESTED** races were asked to respond with information. For information on state-wide candidates and issues, please visit the website of the [League of Women Voters of Ohio](http://www.lwvohio.org).

Judge, Court of Appeals, 9th Appellate, term commencing 2/9/2011

Carla D. Moore
1048 Rolling Meadows Road
Akron, OH 44333

Judge, Court of Appeals, 9th Appellate, term commencing 2/10/2011

Robert J. Brown
403 Elm Drive
Wooster, OH 44691

Judge, Court of Appeals, 9th Appellate, term commencing 2/11/2011

Rita M. Rochford
710 Upper Merriman Drive
Akron, OH 44303

Judge, Court of Common Pleas, term commencing 1/2/2011

Jack Kilroy
2560 Shakespeare Lane
Avon, O 44011

Judge, Court of Common Pleas, term commencing 1/1/2011

Christopher R. Rothgery
5301 South Park Drive
Lorain, OH 44053

Judge, Court of Common Pleas, term commencing 1/3/2011

Mark A. Betleski
5114 Mills Creek Lane
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Representative to Congress, 13th District (Avon, Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain, North Ridgeville, Sheffield Lake, Carlisle Township (#1 and #2 split), Columbia Township, Eaton Township (#4 split), Elyria Township, Sheffield Township, Sheffield Village)

Question posed to candidates: In these very difficult times for Northeast Ohio, what measures would you propose and support to help our struggling economy?

Betty Sutton

3825 Royal Rock Road
Copley, OH 44321

Education: Juris Doctor, University of Akron School of Law; Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Kent State University

Current Occupation: Congresswoman, US House of Representatives, OH-13

Training and Experience: Member of Congress, 2007 – Present; State Representative, 1993-2000; Summit County Council-at-Large, 1991-1992; Barberton City Council-at-Large, 1989-1990

Response to Question:

1. I ran for Congress a few years ago because I was frustrated with Washington. I was frustrated with the failure of leadership that produced corruption, that led us to the wrong war in Iraq, and that created economic policies that turned a record surplus into historic deficits. My commitment to change Washington remains as strong today. My platform is simple. I will fight for measures that create jobs here in America, here in Ohio, and I will oppose policies that make it easier to send our jobs overseas. I will work for small businesses that create jobs, treat their workers right, and their customers fairly. And I will stand up for the middle class when big corporations try to take advantage of them, as I did with the credit card bill of rights and as I did in ending the insurance company abuses that led to patients losing their insurance when they got ill. The kind of change that improves the lives of regular people is never easy, but it lies at the heart of my dedication to northeast Ohio and I will reach out a hand to any Democrat or Republican willing to work together to get it done.

Justin P. Wooden
4985 Clearwater Drive
North Canton, OH 44720

Representative to Congress, 9th District (Carlisle Township (#1 and #2 split), Eaton Township #4 split, Grafton Township, Henrietta, Huntington, Kipton, LaGrange Township and LaGrange Village, New Russia Township, Oberlin City, Penfield, Pittsfield, Rochester Township and Villlage, Vermilion City, Wellington Township and Village)

Question posed to candidates: In these very difficult times for Northeast Ohio, what measures would you propose and support to help our struggling economy?

Marcy Kaptur
1841 Dority
Toledo, OH 43615

Dale R. Terry
422 Cleveland Road West
Huron, OH 44839

Education: 1974 High School Graduate - Huron High School - Huron, Oh. less than 1 year at BGSU.

Current occupation: self-employed

Training and Experience: over 10 years in financial services Industry
- Business owner 10 years

Response to question:

1. I would encourage the abolishment of the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve is the main cause of Bust and Booms in the economy for the last 100 years. There also needs to be less taxes and regulations on businesses. Therefore they would have more money to expand and hire more employees. The capital gains tax needs to be substantially less. I would also cut payroll taxes on employees substantially. Also, I believe that cutting gasoline taxes and giving tax cuts to oil refineries would lower the costs for American families as in lower food prices and other goods and services. I would need to work on overturning Healthcare reform to save 1/16th of the free market economy from the Federal Government.

State Senator

Sue Morano
1131 Highland Park Blvd.
Lorain, OH 44052

State Representative, 56th House District (AMHERST CITY Pct. 2-A split with 58th), ELYRIA CITY 5th Ward and 6th Ward, LORAIN CITY, OBERLIN, SHEFFIELD LAKE, AMHERST TOWNSHIP, SOUTH AMHERST VILLAGE, CARLISLE TOWNSHIP Pct. #2 split with 57th, ELYRIA TOWNSHIP #1 Split with 57th Dist. ELYRIA

TOWNSHIP #2, ELYRIA TOWNSHIP #3, NEW RUSSIA TOWNSHIP, SHEFFIELD TOWNSHIP)

Questions posed to candidates for State Representative:

- 1.What measures would you propose and support to restore adequate public transportation in Lorain County?
- 2.There are three other candidates for this office. What do you believe distinguishes you from your fellow candidates?

José Candelario
359 California Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052

Dan Ramos
1828 West 38th Street
Lorain, OH 44053

Education:

The Ohio State University, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, 2003
Lorain Admiral King High School, Lorain, Ohio, Honors Diploma, 1999

Current Occupation: I was last employed as Senior Policy Analyst to House Speaker Armond Budish for Healthcare and Higher Education. I resigned in order to run.

Training and Experience: I have served as Legislative Aide and sole staffer to our outgoing Representative, Joe Koziura, and Policy Aide to then-Minority Leader Joyce Beatty, and Senior Policy Analyst to Speaker Armond Budish. I am the only candidate with Statehouse experience.

Answer to questions:

1. In the short term, I plan on fighting to get the state to pay for the upkeep of state routes in municipalities. Currently state transportation dollars are only spent on highways outside of municipalities. Some of the local savings could be used to restore public transportation. In the long term, I would seek a change to allow transportation funds to be used for all transportation, including a dedicated fund for public transportation, as opposed to the current system that only allows funds to be spent on highways.

2. I am the only candidate for this office who has any Statehouse experience. I have spent years working in the legislature, gaining a deep understanding of its inner workings, studying current policy as well as the process of writing policy, and developing important relationships. This will allow me to start working for our area on day one.

Maria Zampieri Vitale

312 Kentucky Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052

Education: Lorain High School; Lorain Community College; Lakeland School of Travel and Tourism

Occupation: (I had to leave to run for this office) Former Enforcement Investigator for Child Support, Lorain County Department of Job and Family Services 11 years. Former small business owner. I am the co-founder and President of Zero Population, which is a non-profit that funds animal rescue organizations. I own a special events consulting business called Celebrations!

Training and Experience: Member of Quota International where I am currently serving as Vice President. Member and 5 time past president of Lorain Democratic Women's Club. Officer in Local UAW 2192 and Vice President of Coalition of Labor Union Women. Member Workshop Players, Amherst Ohio.

Response to questions:

This is my first run for office. I have never held or sought an elected public office before this time.

I believe strongly that ONE person can make a difference. I also believe that it is an honor and a privilege to serve. I am not a career politician looking to climb the political ladder. I am a single parent that raised her child here, owns a home, pays taxes and loves my town. Our community is going through an extremely difficult era. **We need jobs.** We need our young citizen's to stay in town after their education. As an investigator for Child support I've heard many unfortunate stories over the last few years of sad, sad situations that have occurred because of the economy and job loss. I've lived through many of those same experiences and I've made the tough decisions necessary to sustain my home and family. I have the ability, experience and desire to make those same difficult choices for District 56.

Richard S. Williams

45342 Butternut Ridge Road
Oberlin, OH 44074

Education: Wellington High School, Lorain County; Fenn College
Technical Institute, Cleveland, Ohio; National Radio and Television
School, Cleveland, Ohio

Current Occupation: Retired Electronic Technician

Training and Experience: Elected Official; Appointments to state,
county and local boards and councils; Active member in civic
organizations. Examples: Township Trustee 26 years; Township Zoning
Commission; Oberlin Recreation Commission and Recreation Director;
PTA Officer; Ohio Township Association President, 3 years; EPA Solid
Waste Advisory Council; ODNR Recycling and Litter Prevention
Advisory Council; Lorain County Solid Waste Management Advisory
Council; Lorain County Township Association President; Rural Lorain
County Water Authority; Central Lorain County Ambulance District
Board; Voices for Children Board

Response to questions:

1. County public transportation should remain under the jurisdiction of the county commissioners. As a state legislator I will pursue additional funding for local transportation in the state annual budget. I will research all possible transportation funding sources of the state and federal government and forward the information to the county commissioners.

2. I am a candidate of great experience! My qualifications are exemplary. A township trustee 26 years and 12 year officer of the Ohio Township Association, 3 years as president; Appointments to state, county, and local boards and commissions; Oberlin recreation Director; Field Coordinator for the late Congressman Don Pease; Employment at NASA and FAA; Active member in community service organization; An accumulated bank of public official contacts; A thorough knowledge of the region. A forty year proven record of leadership and accomplishments distinguishes me as the most qualified and best prepared candidate to be the next state representative of District #56.

State Representative, 57th House District (Elyria 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th,
Avon, Avon Lake, North Ridgeville, Carlisle Township except precinct 2 split with 56th,
Columbia Township, Eaton Township, Elyria Township #1, Sheffield Village)

Matt Lundy
338 North Olive Street
Elyria, OH 44035

State Representative, 58th House District (AMHERST CITY - Pct. 2-A (split with 56th) BRIGHTON TWP, BROWNEHELM TWP. CAMDEN TWP, GRAFTON TWP, GRAFTON VILLAGE, HENRIETTA TWP, HUNTINGTON TWP, LAGRANGE VILLAGE, PENFIELD TWP, PITTSFIELD TWP, ROCHESTER TWP. & VILLAGE VERMILION CITY, WELLINGTON TWP, WELLINGTON VILLAGE)

Questions posed to candidates for State Representative:

- 1. What measures would you propose and support to restore adequate public transportation in Lorain County?**
- 2. There are three other candidates for this office. What do you believe distinguishes you from your fellow candidates?**

Gregory S. Davidson
403 W. Emerald
Willard, OH 44890

Education: High school diploma, variety of College courses for Law Enforcement, skill trades and business, and United States Army Schools.

Current Occupation: Industrial Electrician, and Willard City Councilman

Training and Experience: United States Army, Persian Gulf War Veteran, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Two Bronze Service Stars and The Army Commendation Medal. Ohio Certified Law Enforcement Officer. Willard City Councilman for a second term, now serving on the Safety and Legislative committee. Over 20 years as an industrial electrician.

Response to questions:

- 1. I have looked over some information I was able to find and I see that the County has received money from both the State and Federal government to keep the system moving but not as efficiently as it should be. I would support any measure that would help cure this problem without jeopardizing our public safety forces, infrastructure,**

schools (K-12th) or our National Security. Tax dollars fund the transportation system and with many jobs being lost we also lose tax money. I would propose we have accountability of priority spending to insure your tax money benefits the people.

2. Remove any and all red tape that stops companies from coming here. We have heard about this every election, it's time to do it if this is what's stopping progress. We need to start making decisions and policies with the American worker in mind first, and enormous profits for a selected few secondary. Bringing these lost jobs back to our district would help restore our many lost services.

George F. Mays
6 Minard Place
Norwalk, OH 44857

Website: www.maysforstaterep.com

Education: BS Psy. Campbellsville University, M Div. Ashland University, 4 weeks in Israel and Egypt

Current Occupation: small business owner

Training and Experience: 2008 Congressional candidate, 2009 an award from Huron Co. Democrats for my work in the party, a member of the Huron Co. WIA Board, 15 years of charity and church work, 14 years as a small business operator

Response to questions:

1. Growing up in Dayton, public transportation was a way of life. As a boy I went to the YMCA on a bus. Much of our shopping and my Mother's ride to work was accomplished by city transit. I understand the need.

Budget restraints left hard choices which I am sure no one is pleased with. If not for brave work and stimulus money there would have been none at all.

Knowing my fondness for this issue I will work with like minded legislators and attempt to gain State funding as well as lobby our Federal delegation for grants, etc.

2. As a member of the Workforce Investment Act Board in Huron County it is a pleasure to support the retraining of displaced workers and their hiring, the success of youth programs and the public/ small business partnerships that give young adults a living wage. I support

these efforts as well as any public works programs on infrastructure and green power production projects.

County and local governments have economic incentives, programs and plans. I will be their biggest cheer-leader. I will shop any good idea in those plans. We must encourage the development of small manufacturing concerns, 3 and 4 people, with incentives, low taxes, micro-loans and space in the empty buildings that litter our district.

Kyle J. Wilson
525 Lakeshort Drive
Willard, OH 44890

State Central Committeeman

Chase M. Ritenauer
2515 Garfield Blvd.
Lorain, OH 44052

State Central Committeewoman

Ann Tanner
816 Wilder Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035

County Auditor, term commencing 3/14/2011

Mark Steward
709 Kent Circle
Elyria, OH 44035

County Commissioner, term commencing 1/1/2011

Questions posed to candidates:

1. Do you believe the current system of electing three county commissioners-at-large best serves all the residents of the county, rural and urban, northern and southern? Give examples to support your position. Are there changes in the Board of Commissioners that you would support?

2. There are five other candidates for this office. What do you believe distinguishes you from your fellow candidates?

Joseph F. Koziura
5308 Gargaz Drive
Lorain, OH 44053

Education: Lorain Admiral King High School; Lorain County Community College; Dyke College

Current Occupation: Ohio House of Representatives, 56th District; Registered Investment Advisor

Training and Experience: Ohio House Of Representatives, 11 terms; Lorain City Auditor (Finance Director) 7 years; Chief Deputy Auditor 6 years; Mayor City Of Lorain; Registered Investment Advisor Series 7, 63, & 65; C.F.P. - A.A.M.S. Licensed For Insurance Products

Response to questions:

1. I believe that there is no need for more than three commissioners. Expanding to additional territorial positions would cause more problems instead of advancing regionalism between all government entities in Lorain County. I think there should be a review of existing elected positions that exist in the present form of county government. Some have been around since the 1800's and have duplication of duties.

2. Although I believe the other candidates are all good men with the desire and intent to do well, I believe my record of accomplishments speaks loud and clear of what I have been able to make happen in the past and can do in the future. I know how all levels of government operate and have the knowledge and relationships to bring positive change to Lorain County government. From saving taxpayers over 11 million dollars by legislation changing the State to fund the Bascule Bridge, to passing the Battered Women Syndrome Bill, I will deliver for the people of Lorain County.

Joshua David Meszes
10331 East River Rd,
Carlisle, OH 44035

Education: Midview High School, graduation year 2000; Lorain County Community College 2000-2002,; Ohio State University 2002-2005

Current Occupation: Berea Children's Home, Treatment Specialist

Training and Experience: 5 years of management experience and financial planning

Response to questions:

1. Honestly, I feel the county would be best suited being broken up into districts and each district having their own representation. Lorain has the largest population which in turn leads to more candidates deriving from there. That then leads to stronger representation toward Lorain. Now if we break the county down into 5-7 districts (be it by size, proximity or population) that would create a panel suited to better address the whole county. I will support changes that create long term improvement and stability in the county. I think long term and I believe we are heavily focused on the here and now and tend to neglect planning for potential issues residing in the future.

2. What suits me for this job is that I have a strong work ethic, I'm motivated, I have a lot to prove and I'm dedicated to building strong communities. I am willing to go above and beyond the scope of my job for the good of the county. I'm going to take \$15000 a year of my pay if elected and put it to work in the community by donating it to programs that support and directly help our citizens. Those are just a few of the things that separate me from my competition.

Ronnie Rimbart

331 South Pleasant Street
Oberlin, OH 44074

Education: Oberlin High School

Current Occupation: self-employed (A 2 Point B Transportation)

Training and Experience: 5 2 year terms - Oberlin City Council and Vice-Chair

Response to questions:

1. It is an issue of representation from all segments of the County. All need to have input in County Government and decision-making. Commissioners have a broad range of responsibilities from annexation to over-looking County properties, jails, courts, and distribution of all

funds to County elected officials for these budgets. We must have a good understanding of all phases of County Government and keep an open mind to all other elected officials.

2. My distinguished strength is that I have lived my entire life in the center of Lorain County, and my experiences of serving the people as a Councilmember would allow me to give equal representation to all Lorain Countians as a whole. I dare to envision and invest in Lorain County.

Bret M. Schuster
3847 Amherst Ave.
Lorain, OH 44052

Victor F. Stewart, III
146 Barrington Court
Elyria, OH 44035

Berry A. Taylor
39575 Slife Road
Grafton, OH 44044

Education: 1971 Elyria High School; 1981 Lorain County Community College - Foundation of Banking Diploma; 1991 Ohio School of Banking - Ohio University; 1985 OBS School of Marketing - Miami University; 1985 Baldwin-Wallace College - Creating and Managing Sales Opportunities

Current Occupation: (2003- Present) First Allied Securities, Independent Financial Consultant

Experience and training: (2001-2003) Lorain National Bank, Senior Financial Advisor; (1993-2001) Wukie Investment Management, Vice President/Financial Consultant; (1970-1993) Elyria Savings and trust National Bank, V.P./Branch Manager, Southern District Administrator; (1972-1975) Veteran - United States Army;

Response to questions:

1. I believe that the current system of electing three county commissioners-at-large is not in the best interest of the county. The Eastern, Western, and Southern parts of this county have been ignored for years and need more representation. I would support a four-district and one at large commissioner. The county would be divided into four-districts. One district would be Lorain and West to the county line and

south to Route 20. The next district would be Elyria and East to the county line and south to Route 10. The Southern district would be divided by Rt. 301 and have one representative for the East and West. Then there would be one commissioner at large to cover all of Lorain County. This would allow you to have elected officials from the areas that they reside in and they know the concerns of their citizens. This would eliminate having commissioner elected from the same area.

2. County commissioners must be astute and have good business sense. I have been self-employed for the last seventeen years as an Independent Financial Consultant and Insurance Agent. I worked in banking for over twenty-three years, managing one of the largest branches. The most important attribute of a county commissioner is the ability to lead. I was the Southern District Administrator, Branch Manager, and Vice President, for the bank. Not only managing my branch but also four other branches, managing more than thirty employees. Also commissioners need to be good listeners, and as Carlisle Township Trustee, I listen to our residents and other elected officials, and I help them with their concerns. These things set me apart from the other five candidates, good business sense, and listener, proven leadership, government experience, and Integrity.