

Voters' Guide: General Election 2020



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ASHTABULA COUNTY

As presented by the Ashtabula County League of Women Voters in partnership with Gazette Newspapers

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Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020
Polls open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DEAR VOTERS:

The League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County (LWVAC) believes that informed citizens are the basis of our democracy. By publishing this Voters' Guide and holding Virtual Candidates' Nights, we provide citizens with non-partisan, factual information on the local candidates for the fall general election.

Information for the guide was obtained from the following sources:

Federal, State and Local candidates were invited to participate in the League's VOTE411 online voter guide, answering multiple question covering relevant topics.

Judicial candidates were invited to participate in the Judicial Votes Count online voter guide, answering questions from the Judicial Votes Count non-partisan partnership.

Responses from candidates who met our submission deadlines have been reproduced here in their entirety and as submitted. All candidates are solely responsible for the content of their replies. Every effort has been made by the League to ensure accuracy and completeness.

For more information, please go to VOTE411.org and Judicialvotescount.com

The Gazette Newspapers is providing this guide free to all voters who are their subscribers. LWVAC will also have printed copies available at county libraries and on their website, Facebook page and VOTE411.org.

Any advertising is to offset costs of this publication and does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendations or favoring by the League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County. The Gazette Publications and LWVAC are not responsible for any content in the candidates' statements as they are being printed directly as submitted by said candidates. Material in this Voters Guide may not be reproduced or altered without the written consent of the LWVAC.

LWVAC welcomes men and women as members. Visit us at: www.facebook.com/League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County/.

Sincerely,
Mary Howe, President



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ASHTABULA COUNTY

General Election Candidates 2020

United State House Representative 14th District


David Joyce vs. Hillary O'Connor Mueri

Two-year term | 16 from Ohio - one from each district

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

David Joyce

Republican
Campaign Email: info@joyceforcongress.com
Education: University of Dayton (BS, JD)
Current Occupation: U.S. Congressman
Training/Experience: Public Defender, Cuyahoga County (1983-1984) Public Defender, Geauga County (1984-1988) Prosecutor, Geauga County (1989-2012)
Website: <http://joyceforcongress.com>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/DaveJoyceOH
Twitter: @DaveJoyceOH14



David Joyce


Q: Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air and land?

A: Having lived my entire life here in Northeast Ohio, I know how valuable our natural resources - like Lake Erie - are. In Congress, I'm proud to help lead the bipartisan effort to protect and preserve the Great Lakes. I'm known in Washington as "the Great Lakes Guy" for all the work I do to combat invasive species, restore habitats, reduce harmful algal blooms and prevent pollution in the Great Lakes region. These lakes sup-

See JOYCE page 13

Hillary O'Connor Mueri

Democrat
Campaign Email: info@hillaryoconnormueri.com
Education: J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2010 B.S. Aviation Engineering, The Ohio State University, 1999
Current Occupation: Attorney
Website: <http://HillaryOConnorMueri.com>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/HillaryOConnorMueri4Ohio
Twitter: @HillaryMueri
Instagram: @HillaryOConnorMueri



Hillary O'Connor Mueri

Q: Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air and land?

A: If we fail to act soon, climate change will damage our economy and leave a difficult and uncertain future for future generations. Climate change is hurting our community in important ways including damage to agriculture, health, and damage to Lake Erie that can't be fixed with a few dollars of cleanup efforts.

See MUERI page 13

List of Election Issues

ASHTABULA COUNTY		November 3, 2020
ISSUES SHEET		GENERAL ELECTION
REV: 8-26-2020		OFFICIAL
ISS #	AREA	INFORMATION
1	ASHTABULA CITY	REN - 0.3 MILL - SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE CENTER - 5 YEARS
2	GENEVA ON THE LAKE VILLAGE	ADD - 1.7 MILLS - AMBULANCE ACQUISITION - 5 YEARS
3	JEFFERSON VILLAGE	REN - 1 MILL - FIRE - 5 YEARS
4	JEFFERSON VILLAGE	REN - 1.55 MILLS - CURRENT EXPENSES - 5 YEARS
5	ORWELL VILLAGE	REN - 1 MILL - FIRE PROTECTION - 5 YEARS
6	ORWELL VILLAGE	REN - 3 MILLS - GENERAL OPERATING EXP - 5 YEARS
7	ROCK CREEK VILLAGE	REN - 1.92 MILLS - GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES - 5 YEARS
8	ROCK CREEK VILLAGE	REN - 2 MILLS - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
9	ANDOVER TOWNSHIP	REN - 2 MILLS - AMBULANCE AND EMS - 2 YEARS
10	ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP (excluding CITY)	REN - 1 MILL - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
11	COLEBROOK TOWNSHIP	REP - 1.25 MILLS - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
12	DORSET TOWNSHIP	REN - 1.5 MILLS - FIRE AND EMS - 5 YEARS
13	MONROE TOWNSHIP	REN - 1.5 MILLS - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
14	MORGAN TWP inc VILL of ROCK CREEK+ROAMING SHORES	REN - 2.5 MILLS - FIRE + EMS - 4 YEARS
15	PIERPONT TOWNSHIP	REN - 2 MILLS - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
16	PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP	REP - 1 MILL - FIRE AND EMS - 5 YEARS
17	PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP	REP - 3 MILLS - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
18	ROME TOWNSHIP ex Vill of Roaming Shores	REP - 2 MILLS - ROADS, EQUIPMENT, BUILDINGS - 5 YEARS
19	WILLIAMSFIELD TOWNSHIP	REN - 2 MILLS - AMBULANCE AND EMS - 5 YEARS
20	WILLIAMSFIELD TOWNSHIP	REN - 2 MILLS - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
21	WINDSOR TOWNSHIP	REN - 1 MILL - ROADS AND BRIDGES - 5 YEARS
22	WINDSOR TOWNSHIP	REN - 2 MILLS - FIRE - 5 YEARS
23	WINDSOR TOWNSHIP	REP - 2.5 MILLS - FIRE - 5 YEARS
24	ASHTABULA AREA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT	REN - 1.25 MILLS - TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT - 5 YEARS
25	JEFFERSON AREA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	REN - 6 MILLS - CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES - CPOT
26	ORWELL AREA JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT	REN - 1 MILL - PARK - 5 YEARS
27	SAYBROOK TWP PARK DISTRICT	REN - 0.5 MILL - CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES - 3 YEARS
28	SAYBROOK TWP FIRE DISTRICT	ADD - 3.5 MILLS - FIRE SAFETY AND EMS SERVICES - CPOT
29	SOUTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT	REP + INC - 2 MILLS - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE - 5 YEARS
30	HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP	LIQUOR OPTION - SUNDAY SALES - BARN AT HARRT'S GROVE
31	HARTSGROVE TOWNSHIP	LIQUOR OPTION - SUNDAY SALES - HARTSGROVE BP / MOBIL

Official ballot language can be found on the Ashtabula County Board of Election's website.

2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT



\$25,900

#6724A

2020 CHEVROLET COLORADO 4WD LT



\$29,900

#6728A, 21k Miles

2010 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL w/1XL



\$7,900

#6735B, 146k Miles

2014 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LTZ



\$15,900

#3039B, 86k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET VOLT LT



\$16,900

#6733A, 28k Miles

2017 GMC CANYON 4WD SLT



\$27,900

#6712A, 54k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500



\$30,950

#6694A, 35k Miles

2016 CHEVROLET CRUZE Sedan LT (Automatic)



\$15,250

#6661A, 11k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET TRAX FWD 4dr LT



\$16,900

#6695A, 22k Miles

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN GT



\$20,900

#6723A, 41k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET CRUZE LS



\$11,900

#2918A, 60k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET TRAX LS



\$15,900

#6729A, 27k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET TRAX AWD 4dr LT



\$17,900

#6699A, 27k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET SONIC LT



\$12,900

#6719A, 55k Miles

2019 HYUNDAI KONA SE



\$15,999

#6705A, 31k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT



\$17,900

#6725A, 25k Miles

2017 FORD FUSION S



\$13,990

#6696A, 60k Miles

2019 CHEVROLET CRUZE LT



\$16,500

#6681A, 38k Miles

2017 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT



\$17,900

#6732A, 24k Miles

2018 KIA SOUL



\$14,900

#6674A, 40k Miles

2017 FORD ESCAPE SE



\$16,650

#3045A, 32k Miles

2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT



\$18,900

#6691A, 21k Miles

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WHITE
& BLUE
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Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8-6
Saturday 8-12 • Closed Sunday

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MIDWAYCHEVROLET

THREE WAYS TO CAST YOUR BALLOT

ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL

You must first submit an Absentee Ballot Application form. The form is available at the county board of elections, the Ohio Secretary of State's office, online at VoteOhio.gov or can be requested by mail

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is three days before the election in which you want to vote, but voters can submit their application any time. Absentee voting begins October 6th.

The Board of Elections will mail your Absentee Ballot to you with a return envelope. Fill in all required information on the envelop and check it twice.

You may return your absentee ballot to the Board of Elections by:

- Mailing your ballot to the Ashtabula County Board of Elections, 8 W. Walnut St., Jefferson, OH 44047. If mailed, absentee ballots must be postmarked by the day before the election in order to be counted. If you are returning your voted ballot by mail during the week before Election Day, you should take it to USPS no later than the day before Election Day and ensure it receives a postmark as follows:

If you use a postage label purchased at a USPS customer service window or vending machine, the date on the label is the postmark. This is the USPS-recommended way to postmark your ballot.

If you use postage stamps, ask that it be postmarked.

- Hand-delivering by you or a relative to the Board of Elections office before the close of the polls at 7:30 p.m. on Election Day

- Placing it in the secure Drop off Box outside of the Board of Elections before the close of the polls at 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

You can vote in person at the Board of Elections Early Voting Center located 71 N. Chestnut St. (Route 46), Jefferson, Ohio, (next to J.R. Hofstetter Family Jeweler) from Oct. 6 to Nov. 2.

HOURS FOR IN-PERSON VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER 3rd GENERAL ELECTION

Starting Tuesday, Oct. 6, the Board of Elections Early Voting Center will be open as follows:

- Oct. 6 through Oct. 16, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Oct. 19 through Oct. 23, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- Oct. 26 through Oct. 30, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

In addition weekend hours are available as follows:

- Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 25, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Sunday, Nov. 1, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

In-person voting at the Early Voting Center ends on Monday, Nov. 2, 2020, at 2 p.m.

IN-PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

- Polls are open on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- You must cast your ballot at your designated polling location.
- Visit VoteOhio.gov to find your designated Election Day voting location.
- Remember to bring an acceptable form of identification to the polls on Election Day

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ashtabula County Board of Elections
8 W. Walnut St.
Jefferson, OH 44047
440-576-6915
Fax: 440-576-1445
E-Mail: Ashtabul@OhioSoS.GOV
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday



DROP BOX

A secure drop box is available for your absentee applications and voted ballots at the Ashtabula County Board of Elections. The drop box is located outside the office at 8 W. Walnut St., Jefferson.

- Remember the deadlines:
- Absentee Ballot applications: Three days before the election – DO NOT WAIT THAT LONG!
 - Voted Ballots: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3, 2020

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote if a voter's eligibility is in question and the voter would otherwise not be permitted to vote at his or her polling place. The content of a provisional ballot is no different from a regular ballot, but it is cast "provisionally" until election officials can verify the voter's eligibility to vote in the particular precinct at that election.

There are several scenarios in which a voter may cast a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot may be used on Election Day if a voter's eligibility is in question, or before (or on) Election Day if a voter has recently changed his or her address and did not update his or her voter registration.

Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

Sharon L. Kennedy vs. John O'Donnell

Full term beginning Jan. 1, 2021

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

Term: Six years

SHARON L. KENNEDY
NO RESPONSE AS OF SEPT. 18, 2020

JOHN O'DONNELL

Age: 55
Residence: Lakewood
Email: judgejohnpodonnell-forjustice@gmail.com
Website: odonnellforjustice.com

Social Media: @Judge-JackOD; www.facebook.com/JudgeJohnODonnell

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

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

Work Experience: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov, a nonpartisan partnership committed to helping voters make informed choices about judicial candidates.

Family: Married with five children

Affiliations: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov

Endorsements: The Cleveland Plain Dealer, https://www.cleveland.com/opinion/2020/09/john-p-odonnell-for-ohio-supreme-court.html

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



John O'Donnell

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

A: The Ohio Supreme Court decides issues affecting everyone on a wide variety of subjects: constitutional law; education; collective bargaining; employer/employee rights; civil rights; utility rates; criminal law; commerce; legislative districting and others. I want to bring to these issues an independent perspective, informed by practical experience and the law, to decide these cases for the common good of all Ohioans.

Jennifer Brunner vs. Judi French

Term beginning Jan. 2, 2021

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

Term: Six years

JENNIFER BRUNNER

Age: 63
Residence: Columbus
Email: judgejenniferbrunner@gmail.com
Website: www.jenniferbrunner.com

Social Media:

- www.facebook.com/BrunnerCommittee/ and www.facebook.com/Justice-for-the-People-Judge-Jennifer-Brunner-for-Ohio-Supreme-Court-101751074823700/
- https://twitter.com/JenniferBrunner
- www.instagram.com/jenniferlbrunner/
- www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-brunner-7584153

Occupation: Judge, Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals
Education: J.D. Capital University Law School, Order of the Curia; B.S. Sociology-Gerontology, Miami University, Cum Laude

Work Experience: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov, a nonpartisan partnership committed to helping voters make informed choices about judicial candidates.

Family: Married since 1978 to attorney Rick L. Brunner from Columbiana County, Ohio, three adult children and five grandchildren with another on the way; two rescue dogs

Affiliations: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov

Endorsements: Cleveland Construction and Building Trades Council; SEIU Local 11199; Communication Workers of America District 4; Ohio Federation of Teachers



Jennifer Brunner

Bar Association Ratings:

- 2002 Highly Recommended – www.cbalaw.org/cba_prod/files/polls/2002%20Judiciary%20Committee%20Findings.pdf;
- 2014 Highly Recommended – www.cbalaw.org/cba_prod/files/polls/2014%20Judiciary%20Committee%20Findings.pdf

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

A: I love the law, I love Ohio and I enjoy helping people. I am privileged, having traveled to every county in this state when I served as Secretary of State, to have worked with Ohio's 88 county boards of elections as we together served Ohioans.

I chose to run for the Ohio Supreme Court for three reasons: First, I want to be a part of a court that ensures that the first decision interpreting the state constitution's new provisions for fair districts for Congress and the Ohio General Assembly, when challenged — and they will be — is fair and according to state constitutional requirements. As Secretary of State, my office sponsored a public contest to draw districts to show we could end gerrymandering. We used a formula that served as a basis for developing the state constitution's formula for fair districts. We proved it could be done. Nothing is more basic to the health of Ohio's democracy than fair districts, and I want to participate in any review of that process occurring after the 2020 census. I want to use my experience to the benefit of the court and the people of the State of Ohio.

Second, there are important issues such as when a police office can make an individual get out of their car, under what circumstances criminal records can be expunged, when someone's home can be taken through foreclosure or when is it appropriate for legislative caps on damages (such as rape of a child by a trusted pastor) to be overcome. These issues are just a few that affect everyday people in Ohio, though many citizens often don't realize how much they are affected by just the words of the state's highest court.

Third, I have found that when there is a political balance on an appellate court, there is less a tendency to "group think." Better decisions are likely to emerge when they involve the give-and-take of views and the softening of others through reasoned and respectful discussion and decision making. Currently, the political balance of the state's high court is a state of unbalance with five Republicans and two Democrats. A 4-3 balance would, in my view, create some of the best decisions possible from the court. I hope to help provide that balance with my election.

JUDI FRENCH

Age: 58
Residence: Columbus
Email: JusticeJudiFrench@gmail.com
Website: http://JusticeJudiFrench.com; http://FriendsofFrench.com

Social Media: http://Facebook.com/JusticeJudiFrench

Occupation: Justice, Ohio Supreme Court

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

Work Experience: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov, a nonpartisan partnership committed to helping voters make informed choices about judicial candidates.

Family: Married with two children and two grandchildren

Affiliations: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov

Endorsements: Ohio Fraternal Order of Police; Ohio Chamber of Commerce PAC; Ohio Farm Bureau AG-GPAC; NFIB Ohio; Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio (ACT Ohio); Ohio State Medical Association PAC

Bar Association Ratings: 2020: "Highly Recommended" www.ohiobar.org/about-us/media-center/osba-news/2020news/ohio-state-bar-association-commission-on-judicial-candidates-announces-ohio-supreme-court-candidate-ratings-for-the-2020-election/; 2014 "Highly Recommended" by the Ohio State Bar Association Commission on Judicial Candidates; 2010 "Highly Recommended" by the Columbus Bar Association Judicial Committee www.cbalaw.org/cba_prod/Main/Resources/Public/Judicial-Elections.aspx

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

A: I first aspired to be a justice because it offers interesting, challenging, and meaningful work that serves the public interest. I aspire to be reelected to the office because I want to continue that work, both on and off the bench. As a justice, I am able not only to bring attention to needs within the legal profession, the judiciary, and the public as a whole, but also to advocate for change to meet those needs.

In particular, during my next term, I intend to continue the court's work to improve our efficiency and that of all Ohio courts. I also intend to continue my work with the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation and local legal aid organizations to bring more attention, resources, and innovation to the needs of undeserved Ohioans.



Judi French

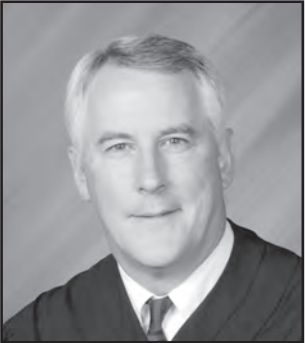
Judge of the Eleventh District Court of Appeals

Timothy P. Cannon vs. Matt Lynch

Term beginning Feb. 9, 2021
Responsibilities: 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.
Term: Six years

TIMOTHY P. CANNON

Age: 64
Residence: Painesville
Website: www.reelect-judgecannon.com
Social Media: Facebook Re-elect Judge Timothy Cannon
Occupation: Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals
Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law 1980
Work Experience: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov, a nonpartisan partnership committed to helping voters make informed choices about judicial candidates.
Family: Married 40 years, two children and two grandchildren
Affiliations: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov
Endorsements: 2014 Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2014 Youngstown Vindicator
Bar Association Ratings: 2020 Trumbull County Bar Assn "Preferred Candidate". 2014 Lake County Bar Assn "Highly Recommended" (100-percent affirmative vote!) 2014 Portage County Bar Assn "Highly Recommended"



Timothy P. Cannon

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?
A: I have been in this seat since August of 2007. I believe I become a better judge with each year that goes by. I have always had a love for the law. My father was an attorney for almost 50 years. We practiced law together for over 20 years. I understand the importance of the work we do, and the need for judges to resolve cases based on the law, and not some philosophical ideal of what we may individually believe.
I believe my willingness to lecture on topics related to our work, and the commitment to resolve cases in an efficient manner help in the quality of service we provide to litigants. I've been appointed to serve by assignment on the Ohio Supreme Court by three different Chief Justices. I believe my experience of serving in that capacity has helped my understanding of what should be expected of the courts of appeals.

MATT LYNCH

NO RESPONSE AS OF SEPT. 18, 2020

Sarah Thomas Kovoov vs. Cynthia Westcott Rice

Term beginning Feb. 10, 2021
Responsibilities: 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.
Term: Six years

SARAH THOMAS KOVOOR

Age: 58
Residence: Warren
Email: electkovoovjudge@gmail.com
Website: www.votekovoov.com
Occupation: Attorney
Education: J.D. from University of Akron School of Law and B.A. from University of Rochester
Work Experience: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov, a nonpartisan partnership committed to helping voters make informed choices about judicial candidates.
Family: Three adult children, three young grandchildren and elderly widowed mother
Affiliations: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov



Sarah Thomas Kovoov

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?
A: I am running for the 11th District Court of Appeals because I have called Northeast Ohio my home for over 30 years. It is the area where I have practiced law and raised a family. During this time, I have advocated in court for the State and for my clients, both retained and appointed. Through this lifetime of experience, I have had the opportunity to see the good that a Judge can do, both in the courtroom and as a member of the community. When in the courtroom, I will ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to have their appeal heard in a fair and unbiased setting, influenced only by the letter of the law and the evidence presented. As a member of the community, Judges have the opportunity to engage with the public as non-partisan advocates for understanding not only the State Constitution but the American Legal System as a whole. As an immigrant, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to grow up with the protections afforded by the American Legal System and this experience lead me to pursue a career dedicated to these practices and traditions.

CYNTHIA WESTCOTT RICE

Age: 62
Residence: Brookfield
Email: judgecynthiarice@gmail.com
Website: judgecynthiarice.com
Social Media: Facebook: @judgecynthiarice
Occupation: Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals
Education: J.D. - University of Akron School of Law; B.S. - Purdue University, Krannert School of Management
Work Experience: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov, a non-partisan partnership committed to helping voters make informed choices about judicial candidates.
Affiliations: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov



Cynthia Westcott Rice

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?
A: I have served the 11th District as a judge for the past 18 years. I believe my legal experience is an asset to the court. The majority of my legal practice prior to taking the bench was as a state and federal prosecutor. Approximately half of our appellate cases are criminal. Presently, none of the current judges have an extensive background in criminal law and procedure.
During my service on the appellate bench, I have been able to contribute insight into nuances of criminal procedure that have assisted our court in delivering sound, well-reasoned opinions. Having practiced as an Assistant United States Attorney, I am more familiar with differences between state and federal criminal laws. This enables me to better determine how U.S. Supreme Court decisions that address federal cases affect Ohio's criminal justice system.
I have worked in various positions with the Ohio Judicial Conference for over ten years. The judicial conference provides research and impact statements on legislation that affects the administration of justice in Ohio. The goal of the Ohio Judicial Conference is to improve the judiciary from within the judicial branch and to recommend legislation where needed. I would like to continue my work with the Ohio Judicial Conference during my upcoming term on the bench. Judicial education is a critical part of ensuring a strong judiciary. I have assisted other appellate judges in teaching the new appellate judges' educational seminar. I have also taught various continuing legal education courses for the local bar associations in our district. I find teaching intellectually challenging and hope to continue contributing in this manner. And last but not least, I will serve as the Ohio Court of Appeals Judges' Association Chief Judge in 2020. I am looking forward to this responsibility and challenge.

Ohio State Senate District 32

Sean O'Brien vs. Sandra O'Brien

Responsibilities: To represent the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.
Term: Four years

Sean O'Brien

Democrat
Campaign email: Obrienforohio@gmail.com
Website: http://seanobrienforohio.com
Facebook: http://Sean O'Brien for Ohio
Education: Edinboro University Akron School of Law
Training and Experience: Three terms in the House and one term in the Senate

Q: In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?
A: Prepaid postage for return ballots. Multiple drop boxes per county. Same-day voter registration.

Q: Where do you stand on gun safety issues?
A: As a proud gun owner and avid hunter, I believe we need common sense legislation that requires proper training all gun owners.

Sandra O'Brien

Republican
Campaign email: sandy@sandyforsenate.com
Website: http://sandyforsenate.com
Education: Masters in Administration, Edinboro University, PA; Bachelors in Elementary Education, Bowling Green State University, OH

Training and Experience: Twelve years as elected Ashtabula County Auditor; Masters in Administration, Educator

Q: In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?
A: In 20 years of political activity including elected office, I have never come across a single instance of anyone being denied the right to vote. The current hysteria of voting suppression is simply a political ploy that has been hatched for political gain.

Q: Where do you stand on gun safety issues?
A: As a concealed carry license holder, I have experienced firsthand the training required to obtain one's license. This training for self-protection is thorough, practical and has proven to be an effective method of training one for gun safety.



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Ohio State Representative 99th District

Sarah Fowler Arther vs. Richard Dana vs. Kyle Bruckman

Responsibilities: To represent the people of the district and the State of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government. Term: Two years | 99 to be elected (one from each district)

Richard Dana

Democrat
Campaign Email: danaforohio@gmail.com
Education: Bachelor of Science, with University Honors, The Ohio State University. Juris Doctor, Case Western Reserve University.
Training & Experience: Attorney and former acting Judge, local historian, and adjunct Professor at Kent State University at Ashtabula. Board Membership includes Past President of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and current Board Chair at UH Geneva and Conneaut Medical Centers.
Website: www.danaforohio.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/danaforohiohouse
Twitter: twitter.com/DanaforOhio

Q: How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?
A: I am seeking the 99th Ohio House District seat currently held by Dr. John Patterson. For the past 7+ years, John has attempted to fix the State's school funding system. I support the bi-partisan effort in the Cupp-Patterson Bill, H.B. 305, that seeks to fund schools based on resources that includes, but is not limited to local property taxes. The current reliance on property taxes to fund basic services and our schools causes a hardship to our more rural communities, including our Farmers, that is unsustainable and that severely limits the quality of education and services that we can provide our Children and our Communities.

Q: Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.
A: I have seen the enemy, and it is us. We are far too reliant on single use plastics; and this comes from a person who grew up at a time when we were going to embrace recycling and the metric system. What happened? The 99th House District includes communities that are being devastated by climate change. Land that was receding into Lake Erie at a rate of a feet each year, is now vanishing away in large sections - gone forever. Aside from making changes, ourselves, at an individual level, we need the resources of the State, Federal, and International Community to seek real change. Members of our Community have lost their homes,

See DANA page 14

Kyle Bruckman (write-In)

Campaign Email: kyle@ashtabulacitycab.com
Education: Tooling University (Online Vocational) Motorcycle Mechanics Institute, A.C.J.V.S. (Precision Machining) Edgewood Sr. High School
Training & Experience: Owner: City Taxi Cab & Transfer Co. Owner: Black Eagle Moving Co. Owner: Eighty-Six Engineering, Former Union President: I.L.A. Local 1913 (N.S. Ashtabula Coal Pier) Aerospace Machinist: Component Repair Technologies, Machinist/Fabricator: Fenton Mfg.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/kbruckman1/

Q: How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?
A: The Constitution grants the federal Government no authority over education, so the 10th amendment applies, giving that power to the state and to the people. Ohio should nullify the "No Child Left Behind Act," and all regulations imposed by the Federal Government's Department of Education. Parents should also have the right to provide for the education of their children in the manner they deem best, including home, private, or religious. Equitable tax relief should also be provided for families whose children do not attend public schools.

Q: Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.
A: It is our responsibility to be prudent, productive and efficient stewards of our natural resources. This requires a proper and continuing dynamic balance between development and conservation, between use and preservation. With that, we must wholeheartedly support realistic efforts to preserve the environment, and reduce pollution. I however dispute the argument of the perceived threat of "man-made" climate change.

Q: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?
A: I believe Ohio's procedure for drawing districts is fair, provided the commission members have morals and integrity. However, as an independent, I oppose the "two

See BRUCKMAN page 14

Sarah Fowler Arthur

Republican
Campaign Email: Sarah@ElectSarahFowler.com
Education: Fowler Christian Agriculture & Business Academy, homeschool graduate-2007; Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) Min.Cert-2006
Training & Experience: Fowler Enterprises, Inc - Director of Marketing, Executive Office Assistant 2005-2020; Badger Run Berries, LLC - Entrepreneurial Owner/Operator 2018-2020; Piano Teacher (50+students) 2015-2020; Sarah's Eggs Entrepreneurial Owner/Operator 1999-2012; OH State Bd Ed 2013-20
Website: www.ElectSarahFowler.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SarahOhioEdu7

Q: How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?
A: Bob Cupp, former Ohio Supreme Court Justice and joint-sponsor of the Patterson-Cupp School Funding Bill (HB 305), testified to the Ohio State Board of Education in 2019 that Ohio's school funding system has undergone several fundamental changes since the Ohio Supreme Court ruled on its constitutionality which means that the ruling is no longer applicable.

The ongoing policy discussion revolves around decisions of how local tax monies are raised and spent, balancing state funding with regulatory oversight and accountability measures, and how to ensure that all students have access to quality education. My eight years on the State Board of Education have provided me with an understanding of and appreciation for the complexities of balancing local control with additional state tax dollars.

Additionally, the state needs to use accurate assessments that reflect the true academic knowledge of students, make state report cards clear and understandable, and respect parents' education choices.

Q: Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.
A: Having grown up in agriculture, I know firsthand the importance of maintaining our soil and water resources and their unique ecology's. Good stewardship includes

See ARTHUR page 14

Ohio State Representative 64th District

Martha Yoder

Republican
Education: Berkshire High School, Lakeland Community College, Liberty University
Training and Experience: Owner and Director of Social Service Agency for more than 25 years. Served as Township Trustee for four years. Currently serving on Trumbull County Transit Board. Ohio Township Leadership Academy, Jo Ann Davidson Leadership Institute, Fire Academy Public Officials Program
Campaign Email: yoder4ohio@gmail.com
Website: http://marthayoder.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Martha-Yoder-1610667072528626

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compliant school funding system?
A: I agree with the proposal from 2016 by the Representative now Senator Andrew Brenner that the individual levies and bond issues by local school districts be eliminated and the state wide property tax with equal funding given to each district.

Q: Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.
A: The efforts currently in place for OEPA and Federal EPA are more than sufficient. I do not believe in man-made climate change.

Q: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?
A: In 2015 and 2018, voters approved constitutional amendments for legislative and congressional redistricting respectively. The purpose of these amendments is to combat gerrymandering. Any participation I would have as a legislator would be accordance with these amendments, and I would advocate for following the constitution.

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Michael J. O'Brien vs. Martha Yoder

99 to be elected (1 from each district)

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

Term: Two years

Michael J. O'Brien

Democrat
NO RESPONSE AS OF SEPT. 18, 2020

Q: How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?
A: No response

Q: Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.
A: No response

Q: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?
A: No response

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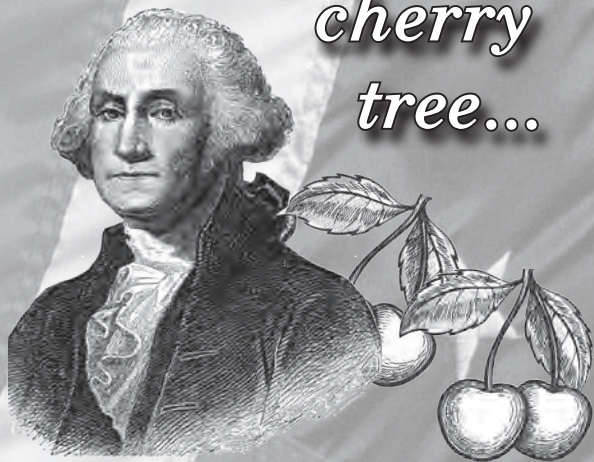
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Judge - Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas

Term beginning Jan. 1, 2021
Responsibilities: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury and other departments of the court.
Term: Six years

MARIANNE SEZON - Unopposed

Age: 49
Residence: Austinburg, Ohio
Campaign Email: sezonforjudge@gmail.com
Website: www.sezonforjudge.com



Marianne Sezon

Occupation: Judge - Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas
Education: John Carroll (B.A. and M.Ed.) University of Akron School of Law (J.D.)
Work Experience: Former Court Magistrate, Court Administrator, and Family Run Business Experience - Eddie's Grill
Family: Husband: Richard Dana; Parents: Eddie and Anne Sezon
Current Affiliations: Ohio Common Pleas Judge Association, Ohio Judicial Conference, Ashtabula County Bar Association

Judge of the Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas, General/Domestic Relations Division

D. Marie Lane vs. David Schroeder

Full term beginning: Jan. 2, 2021
Responsibilities: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury, and other departments of the court
Term: Six years

D. MARIE LANE

Age: 54
Residence: Ashtabula
Email: laneforjudge2020@gmail.com
Website: http://lane-for-judge.com
Social Media: www.Facebook: Lane for Judge; Instagram: lane_for_judge
Occupation: Director, The Ashtabula County Public Defender Office, Inc.
Education: J.D., Cleveland-Marshall College of Law



D. Marie Lane

Work Experience: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov, a non-partisan partnership committed to helping voters make informed choices about judicial candidates.
Affiliations: Information found on Judicial Votes Count - Ohio.gov
Endorsements: Ashtabula County AFL-CIO
Bar Association Ratings: The Ashtabula County Bar Association does not rate candidates.

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?
A: One of my mentors is recently deceased retired Federal Court Judge Thomas Lambros; he was the first person to encourage me to become a judge. Judge Lambros often told the story of going to the White House to meet with President Johnson following his appointment to the federal bench; the President said to him, "I appointed you because you look out for the little guy, so don't disappoint me." Judge Lambros often told me that this is why I should become a judge, because I look out for the little guy.
My love of the community has also played a role in my desire to be a common pleas judge. Working in so many areas of the community, from serving on the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, to serving on the Metroparks Board, working with Kent State Ashtabula as part of the Area College Committee, and working with the veterans at the American Legion and the Elks Lodge, has provided me with a real appreciation for the diversity of the people in this county, and provides me with a perspective of different viewpoints. The community must have confidence that everyone who enters the courtroom will be heard, treated respectfully, and the law will be applied fairly in their cases.

Judge - Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas

Term beginning Feb. 9, 2021

Responsibilities: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury and other departments of the court.
Term: Six years



Thomas E. Harris

THOMAS E. HARRIS - unopposed
NO RESPONSE AS OF SEPT. 18, 2020

Common Pleas Court — Probate

Office: Judge, Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas, Probate - Juvenile Division
Term beginning Feb. 9, 2021
Responsibilities: To rule on cases involving disposition of wills, the administration of estates and guardianships, adoptions, questions of mental or physical disability. They are responsible for issuing marriage licenses.
Term: Six years

ALBERT S. CAMPLESE - unopposed

Age: 62
Email: campleseforjudge@gmail.com
Occupation: Judge
Education: J.D., Cleveland-Marshall Law School; BA, Ohio Northern University; St. John H.S.
Work Experience: Current Judge of Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas, Probate-Juvenile Division (2015-present); Former Judge, Ashtabula Municipal Court (1993-2015); Former Municipal Prosecutor, City of Ashtabula, Ohio (1985-1993); Private law practice (1985-1993)
Family: Married with three daughters
Affiliations: Ohio Association of Probate Judges; Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges; Ohio Judicial Conference; American Judges Association; Former member Association of Municipal/County Judges of Ohio; Ashtabula Bar Association
Endorsements: AFL-CIO, Central Labor Council



Albert S. Camplese

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Ashtabula County Commissioner

J.P. Ducro IV vs. Susan Hagan
Full term commencing Jan. 2, 2021
Responsibilities: To exercise financial control of County expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to vet contracts; to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments.
Term: Four years

J.P. Ducro IV
Republican

Education: 1988 Ashtabula High School 1992 Miami University, BA in Psychology 1994 Associates in Mortuary Science, Pittsburgh Institute (PIMS)
Training and Experience: 5th Generation Funeral Director at Ducro Funeral Services & Crematory and Acting CEO Served 5 years as President of Ashtabula City Council, elected twice County Commissioner since 2017 Former Board President of Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce
Campaign Email: jpducro@ducro.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000071580162

Q: What is the biggest challenge in Ashtabula County and how would you address it?
A: Generational Poverty. To overcome, we must help expand programs such as



J.P. Ducro IV

Bridges out of Poverty, Rising Scholars, and Supported Employment while seeking new and innovative ones as well. We must encourage more mentoring, improve the number, quality, and benefits of jobs locally, and help strengthen the family unit keeping both parents involved with the lives of their children. Advocating against and educating about predatory lenders, promoting financial literacy programs for students and adults, and providing immediate help for those ready to accept it for addiction recovery are all critical steps. Reducing generational poverty will lessen the financial and emotional strain on our criminal justice system, create a more qualified workforce, decrease those that succumb to addiction due to hopelessness and inability to see a better future, and give families and individuals a sense purpose and optimism about their future.

See DUCRO page 16

Susan Hagan
Democrat

Education: Graduate Madison High School Studied Lakeland Community College
Training and Experience: Five-year Union Electrical Apprenticeship program Journeywoman Electrician Ohio School Facilities Commission- Small and Developing Business Liaison Coordinator for Non-profit Workers Rights Organization Geneva City Council, Council President
• **Campaign Email:** hagan4commissioner@gmail.com
• **Facebook:** <http://Hagan for Commissioner>



Susan Hagan

Q: As a County Commissioner, how would you seek to enhance economic development?
A: Ashtabula County is uniquely geographically centered. We are blessed with a diversified economy with access to water and ports, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing and health-care. We must design long term strategic solutions to attract millennials and train and retrain a workforce for a sustainable future

Q: What is your stand on building a new county jail based on the recently completed feasibility study?

A: There is no doubt that a new jail is needed. The poor conditions present not only safety concerns for our public, it is hazardous to the safety forces and staff who work there. The Taj Mahal plan the commissioners envision with a rehab aspect is grandiose and I believe short-sighted. The current County Commissioners squandered away roughly \$600,000 of taxpayer money by draining the rain day fund for just the study of a new jail. The Commissioners have no plan for funding its construction or a clear understanding on how to staff it, or a clear understanding of where it should be located. We need to take a closer look at this and provide a jail that is not only clean and safe but fiscally responsible.

Q: What is the biggest challenge in Ashtabula County and how would you address it?

A: COVID-19 is the biggest challenge. It affects every aspect of our lives. Whether you are a small business owner, unemployed worker, a teacher, a parent or a child there is a level of uncertainty and anxiety that we have never experienced collectively. Ashtabula County must take a pro-active role to provide accurate, science-based information to our residents. In addition, we should work to facilitate Fed, State and County assistance to provide for the immediate needs of the most vulnerable.

Angel M. McVoy vs. Kathryn Whittington

Full term commencing Jan. 3, 2021
Responsibilities: To exercise financial control of County expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to vet contracts; to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments.
Term: Four years

Angel M. McVoy
Democrat

Education: Master's in Health Administration
Training and Experience: Political experience: City of Conneaut, Council - at - Large - two terms.
Campaign Email: angelmcvoy4commissioner@gmail.com
Website: www.angelmcvoy.com
Facebook: <http://AngelMcVoyforCommissioner>
Twitter: twitter.com/mcvoy_4

Q: What is the biggest challenge in Ashtabula County and how would you address it?
A: There are multiple areas within Ashtabula County that require action now, to focus on one challenge would allow the loss of direction that is needed in the completion of multiple projects that require forward thinking paired with strategic development. It is not one challenge, but a systematic approach with a leader who can face these challenging conversa-



Angel M. McVoy

tions with a fresh voice of reasoning. To overcome our challenges, we need to focus on our pursuit to advance in areas of technology, infrastructure, as well as economic development.

Q: As a County Commissioner, how would you seek to enhance economic development?

A: To enhance economic development there are two areas that need to be addressed. First, the goal to collaborate with our education systems to support and develop education that promotes a more diverse in-

come base. This means building up areas of study such as; skilled trades, medical, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. Second, to develop and utilize a County-wide comprehensive plan that clearly provides areas throughout the County, not segmented areas, that can be developed. Additionally, it is imperative to work with Federal, State and local officials to grow each area with purpose and success by have on-going conversation with transparency of goals and objections. Ashtabula County is fortunate to have already developed inter-states that run East to West/ North to South, two deep water ports and rail access these resources set us apart from other counties, we need to focus using these tools in our economic planning.

See McVOY page 16

Kathryn Whittington
Republican

Education: West Geauga High School Associate Degree Business Administration Management Bachelor Degree General Business Administration
Training and Experience: Four years Ashtabula County Commissioner Ashtabula County Children Services Jo Ann Davidson Leadership Institute
Campaign Email: vote@kathryn2020.com
Website: <http://kathryn2020.com>
Facebook: <http://facebook.com/votekathryn>
Twitter: twitter.com/KLWhittington



Kathryn Whittington

the pandemic.
I led efforts to form the Ashtabula County Economic Recovery Task Force which has been meeting weekly for several months working to provide resources and offer assistance for our small businesses in Ashtabula County. Because of the task force we were successful in forming the ReSTART Ashtabula County Small Business Grant program that has provided approximately \$250,000 in assistance to our small businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Q: As a County Commissioner, how would you seek to enhance economic development?

A: During my tenure as a County Commissioner one of my focuses has been on economic development here in Ashtabula County. Early on in my term, we worked with our core economic development entities in Ashtabula County: the Ashtabula County Port Authority, Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County and the Ashtabula County 503 Corporation, to bring them all together in one building in what is now called the Ashtabula County Center for Economic Development, to enhance collaboration and cooperation amongst the entities helping enhance economic development work in our county.

See WHITTINGTON page 16

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Ashtabula County Prosecuting Attorney

Colleen Mary O'Toole vs. Cecilia Cooper

Responsibilities: To investigate and prosecute crimes committed within the county, to defend the county in court, and to give legal advice to county agencies and townships.

Term: Four years

**Colleen Mary
O'Toole**

Republican

Education: John Carroll
University B.A. History
Political Science Cleveland
Marshall Law School Juris
Doctorate Duke Law School
LLM Dec 2020

Training and Experience: Appellate Judge 11th District Court of Appeals International Commercial Judge Legal Consultant Abu Dhabi Judicial Department Attorney In house counsel National Interstate sole proprietor Law Offices Colleen M. O'Toole Founder, On Demand Interpretation Service

Campaign Email: COLLEENOTOOLE@ICLOUD.COM

Website: None

Facebook: <http://colleen.m.otoole>

Twitter: twitter.com/colleenmotoole

Q: What experience qualifies you for the Ashtabula County Prosecuting Attorney position?

A: I have held the elective office in Ashtabula as a Judge in the 11TH District Court of Appeals for 12 years. My justice system experience is vast, having written and decided over 800 appellate opinions including death penalty appeals and sitting on the Ohio Supreme Court as a visiting judge. I am presently serving as an international commercial legal consultant /judiciary member in the United Arab Emirates where I was chosen from a pool of



Colleen Mary O'Toole

over 350 applicants to help recommend best practices to modernize their justice system. I have personally tried over 300 cases to verdict, I am a former Guardian ad litem and foster parent, I am the founder of an award-winning technology startup. My previous experience includes public defender major trial division, in house litigation manager for an insurance company, small firm law partner. I am tough, innovative, and experienced dedicated to Best Practice and trained

in both civil, commercial, and criminal law.

Q: How would you ensure that racial equity is upheld during investigations and prosecutions of cases?

A: I believe racism exists within the US justice system. I also believe police are first responders and heroes. The present conflict does not have an easy diagnosis or resolution. It is rooted in our culture and will take time to unwind. Many of the solutions are cross racial. The extent that it exists here in Ashtabula would need to be determined using data analytics and evidence-based protocols. We need smart systems and we need to identify people that are committing nonviolent crimes due to poverty or opioid addiction verses those that are violent and dedicated to harming our neighbors. There are many cost-effective alternatives to keeping people safe. Prosecutors must find ways

See O'TOOLE page 17

Cecilia Cooper

Democrat

Education: J.D. Emory University School of Law
Bachelor of Arts Washington and Jefferson College High School Villa Maria Academy

Training and Experience: I have served in the Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office for almost ten years. I was hired as an assistant prosecutor in 2011. Then was asked by Nick Iarocci to serve as his chief assistant in early 2015. When he was elected judge, I was appointed County Prosecutor.

Campaign Email: ctecooperprosecutor@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://@ceciliacooperforpros-ecutor>

Q: What experience qualifies you for the Ashtabula County Prosecuting Attorney position?

A: I've been an attorney for over 27 years. My first job after law school was as a law clerk, researching and writing legal opinions for judges. Then I opened my own law office and was in private practice for almost 10 years. I represented clients in both civil and criminal cases. Those years taught me how important it is to take care of your clients and to respond to their questions in a timely manner. After 10 years, I decided to do something that really made me feel good about being a lawyer, so I became a prosecutor. After eight years as a prosecutor in Georgia, I moved to Ashtabula County and in 2011 was hired as an assistant prosecutor by Tom Sartini. I prosecuted every type of crime. In 2015, Nick Iarocci asked me to serve as his chief assistant. As his chief, I have been co-counsel in every murder case that was tried in Ashtabula County in the



Cecilia Cooper

past five years. In January of this year I took over as the County Prosecutor and continue to serve you in that capacity today.

Q: How would you ensure that racial equity is upheld during investigations and prosecutions of cases?

A: Equality is essential to our criminal justice system. As Prosecutor, you have to have open and honest communication with law enforcement during an investigation. I have always

been available to consult with officers twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. If they have a question, they know they can call me and get my best advice. It isn't always the answer they want, but it is always based on the law.

Once a case is turned over to us for review, I try to remain consistent. I look at what the witnesses say, what the physical evidence indicates, and what I believe I can prove beyond a reasonable doubt. Each case with similar facts is treated the same way, no matter who the defendant is.

The same is true of sentencing recommendations. I have always based my sentencing recommendation on the seriousness of the offense, the wishes of the victim, the history of the defendant and other recommendations I have made in similar circumstances.

Q: What types of public outreach would you perform as Prosecuting Attorney?

A: As County Prosecutor I continue to do the same public outreach I've done during my entire career here as an assistant pros-

See COOPER page 17

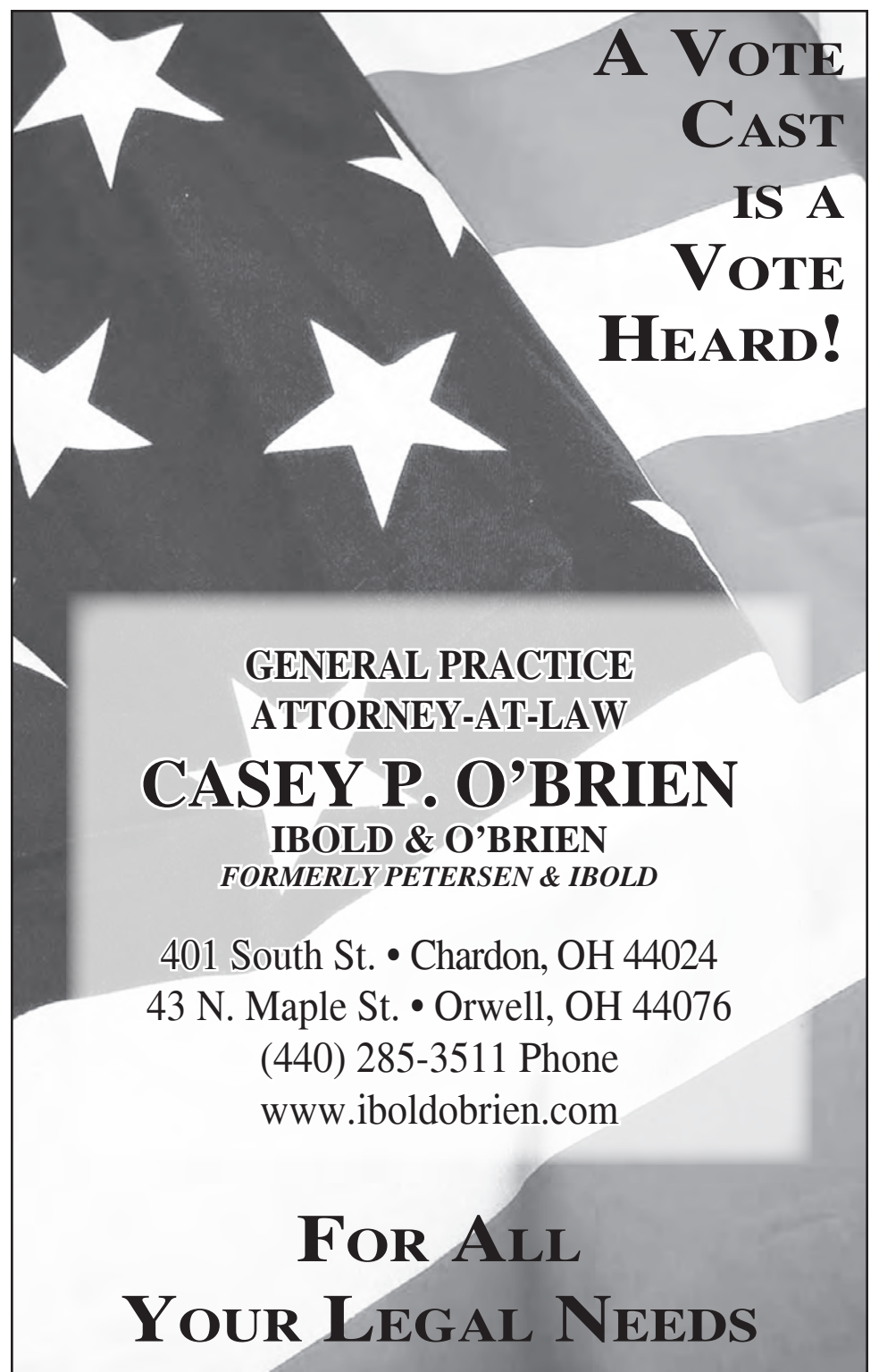


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Ashtabula County Clerk of Courts

Tami Pentek vs. April Mariotti

Responsibilities: To enter judgments and collect court costs for appellate and common pleas courts, and also to issue and transfer automobile and water craft certificates of title.
Term: Four years

Tami Pentek
Democrat
Training and Experience:
• 1995-Current: Office of the Ashtabula County Clerk of Courts, Entry Level Clerk, Assistant Bookkeeper, Bookkeeper, Appointed Chief Deputy Clerk of Courts, Elected Clerk of Courts
• 1990-1994: Easton Culligan, Accounts Receivable/Accounting Clerks, Responsible for all new accounts, billing of hundreds of customers and dispatch service
• 1981-1989: Dairy Mart/Lawsons – Orwell and Newbury, Assistant Manager, Orwell Dairy Mart/Lawsons, Manager – Newbury Dairy Mart/Lawsons, Revamped the entire inventory process and worked closely with corporate to restructure the audit process.



Tami Pentek

& Records Search, implementing Electronic Mailing, restoring vital Naturalization documents, financing the purchase of Sheriff Cruisers and completely redesigning the Legal Department for optimum efficiency to list just a few – much has been accomplished and we have great plans for the future!

Q: What experience qualifies you for the Ashtabula County Clerk of Court position?

A: Twenty-five years of progressive responsibility working every day in the office of the Clerk of Courts from File Clerk to Bookkeeper to Chief Deputy then eight years as your Elected Clerk of Courts. As articulated in the first question and reiterated here: Experience Matters! The Office of the Clerk of Courts is very busy and complex serving as the Hub of the Justice & Judicial system which includes five Court of Appeals and three Common Pleas Judges, and working closely with the Sheriff and Prosecutor's office. The Clerk of Courts is also the Administrator of the Ashtabula County Auto Title Department where we process nearly to 40,000 title documents a year and is also a certified U S Passport Acceptance Agency. I have a great deal of institutional knowledge and operational experience with the various computer programs and systems in both departments. As well as experience in Union/Management relations. You must KNOW the Office to GROW the Office.

See PENTEK page 17

April Mariotti
Republican
Education: AAS in Accounting; BAS in Business Administration; dual concentration in Management and Marketing; AAS in Radiologic Technology
Training and Experience: I am a trained and experienced administrator with expertise in efficiency. This requires me to have the ability to organize people appropriately, understand practical financial reporting policies, reduce wasteful activities, automate data, and manage resources wisely.
Campaign Email: PeopleforApril@outlook.com
Website: www.PeopleforApril.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/People-ForApril



April Mariotti

customer experience in the Legal Division, Automotive Title Department, Acceptance Passport Facility, and the Immigration and Naturalization of the Ashtabula County Clerk of Courts.

Q: What experience qualifies you for the Ashtabula County Clerk of Court position?

A: Twenty-five years ago, I started working on a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from The University of Washington and continued to study digital imaging at Kent State University. As a local business owner of Metal Massage Detailing, for over 16 years, I have attained considerable human resource and customer service experience. At church I use my talents to provide a variety of information technology support. As an elected official, on Jefferson Village Council, I represent the cares and concerns of my community. As the fiscal officer for Ashtabula County Council on Aging I am responsible for administrative duties, as well as, meeting the needs of our senior citizens throughout Ashtabula County. As an X-ray Tech I learned patient care and digital computerized advancements. And as a Notary Public, I have had the honor of helping people execute documents for all sorts of life moments over the past 15 years. What all of these responsibilities have in common is management skills.

Q: What distinguishes you from your opponent?

A: I am not a politician, I am a public servant. Though my opponent and I each boast having 25 years of experience, mine is

See MARIOTTI page 17

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Ashtabula County Sheriff County Recorder

Bill Niemi vs. Billy R. Johnson

Responsibilities: To provide services to the courts, to oversee the county jail, and to act as chief law enforcement officer for the county
Term: Four years

Bill Niemi

Republican

Education: Jefferson Area HS; Ohio Peace Officer Training Certificate; Ohio Police Supervisor School; Ohio Auditor Certified Ohio Records Law

Training and Experience: S.W.A.T. Team, K-9 Officer, OPOTA Certified Schools, Jefferson Village Police, N. Kingsville Police, Ohio Supreme Court Probation Officer Certification, Ashtabula County Sheriff Department Road Division Lieutenant, Terrorism Liaison Officer for Ohio Homeland Security.

Campaign Email: billniemi4sheriff@gmail.com

Website: http://billniemiforsheriff.com

Facebook: http://facebook.com/billniemiforsheriff.com



Bill Niemi

Q: What is the biggest challenge in Ashtabula County and how would you address it?

A: The Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office is not being managed properly. We have experienced officers leaving due to the current environment within and because of the management of the Sheriff's department. I left the department to run for Sheriff for this reason. I would treat all employees with respect and make them part of the solution in fighting crime on the street.

We have many issues with drugs and crime that need to be addressed which requires cooperation with other police agencies federal, state and local. I would lead from the front in combating the drug epidemic by partnering with our community leaders. I would be approachable to citizens and politicians alike to ensure prosperity for all of us. I am not a politician, but law and order is being destroyed nationwide and I will not let this happen to our great county!

Q: Where do you stand on renovating or replacing the current county jail?

A: Due to the age of the current jail and not being properly maintained or updated by the current Sheriff, I would explore replacing this jail with a more efficient and up-to-code building.

Q: Describe any efforts you would make to create a more diverse deputy staff.

A: I would always make employment decisions based on the content of people's character and experience without any pre-conditions.

Billy R. Johnson

Democrat

Education: Saint John High School Graduate. Kent State Univ. 3.5 yrs. OPOTA-Certified Ohio Peace Officer, and Sheriff CPT.

Training and Experience: I have been the County Sheriff for the past 28 years, prior to being elected Sheriff, I previously served as a deputy sheriff, and have six years Military experience.

Campaign Email: sheriff@ashtabulacounty.us

Website: www.ashtabulacountysheriff.us



Billy R. Johnson

Q: What is the biggest challenge in Ashtabula County and how would you address it?

A: The biggest issue facing Ashtabula County is the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this pandemic, county and local budgets have been strained and budget reductions were implemented earlier this year to avoid greater budget impacts from anticipated lower sales and income tax revenues, gas tax revenues, etc. My office operated twenty-four hours per day, so I implemented cost saving and safety measures early, preparing staff, who continue to provide full law enforcement services to the Citizens of Ashtabula County now and throughout the duration of this public health issue. I also supported re-imbursement funding through grants to pay for COVID related expenses incurred. The biggest impact of the pandemic is on Jail operations, and inmate population. Special precautions, quarantine cells and overall jail operational staffing and plans had to be adjusted to keep staff and inmates safe.

Q: Where do you stand on renovating or replacing the current county jail?

A: The current county jail opened in 1978 needs replaced. Major renovations would put us under standards for jails built after 1983. Currently, the jail does not meet the needs of the community or criminal justice system designed to house 112 inmates and an average daily population before COVID of 151 inmates. The current jail was built at a time when jails did not provide alcohol or mental health services or programs to inmates that we now provide. As a result, not only are we not able to house all people that need to be in jail, or provide the necessary resources that keep individuals from reoffending and returning to jail. We do the best we can with the current jail; however, we can do better with a larger and modern facility.

See JOHNSON page 18

Term: Four years
Responsibilities: To record deeds, mortgages, plats, liens and other written instruments.

BARBARA SCHAAB - Unopposed Democrat

Education: Lake Catholic High School. University of Dayton.

Training and Experience: I have served two terms as Ashtabula County Recorder, elected in 2012. Member Ohio Recorder's Association. Member ORA Legislative Committee, Past member ORA Continuing Education Committee. Sixteen years as Austinburg Township fiscal officer.

Campaign Email: bschaab3@gmail.com



Barbara Schaab

County Coroner

Responsibilities: To determine the cause of death of persons dying in a violent or suspicious manner and to issue death certificates.
Term: Four years

PAMELA LANCASTER - unopposed

Email: pamelalancaster@uhhospitals.org

Website: Through UH

Occupation: Family Practice

Education: Doctor of Osteopathy, certified General Practice by American Osteopathic Board of General Practice

Work Experience: Family Practice for 40 years. Five years also ER at ACMC and Andover

Family: Raised my three children in Jefferson, I have three grandchildren.

Affiliations: American Osteopathic Association, Ohio State Coroners Association, American Academy of Forensic Sciences

County Engineer

Responsibilities: To oversee the construction, maintenance, and repair of all bridges in the county, and of county roads and other public improvements except buildings in the county.

Term: Four years

TIMOTHY T. MARTIN – unopposed

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Ashtabula County Treasurer

Dawn M. Cragon vs. Angie Maki Cliff

Responsibilities: To collect taxes in the county and its subdivisions, disburse expenditures, and invest the county's funds.
Term: Four years

Dawn M. Cragon

Democrat

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration from Kent State University, Master of Business Administration from Lake Erie College.

Training and Experience: County Treasurer since September 2009. Prior experience in management, collections and investments for a real estate investment firm while also managing the books, payroll and marketing for two small family-owned businesses for over 15 years.

Campaign Email: dawnncragon@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DawnCragonforCounty-Treasurer

Twitter: twitter.com/TreasurerCragon



Dawn M. Cragon

Q: What is the biggest challenge in Ashtabula County and how would you address it?

A: Ashtabula County faces many challenges, including mental health, drug addiction and the COVID-19 pandemic. Although I participate in numerous discussions to address these issues, the County Treasurer is an administrative position and does not have a role in addressing these challenges or creating public policy.

One issue our County faced which I was able to address as County Treasurer was that of vacant homes decreasing the safety and value of our communities. Blighted and vacant homes decrease neighborhood safety and property values. Recognizing this, I established the County Land Bank which was awarded \$4.3 million to demolish vacant houses and help begin to turn our neighborhoods around. Many of these houses were a product of the 2009 foreclosure crisis and were a burden on our resources. The land bank was able to remove these structures and repurpose the land to tax-paying property owners.

Q: Why are you running for this position?

A: I believe the taxpayers of Ashtabula County deserve a good steward of their tax dollars; one who operates with their interest and that of the county's well-being as the first priority. I have made significant improvements to the office and the services offered to the public since my first term. My education and work history gave me the knowledge and experience to perform the investment and collection duties immediately upon taking office without the learning curve of an inexperienced investor or collector. This saves our County \$50,000 - \$150,000 per year by not contracting an outside investor to manage the county's funds. I have the education and experience to quickly respond to the ever-changing economic climate we've experienced due to recessions and the pandemic, which is of utmost importance in

See CRAGON page 18

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Angie Maki Cliff

Republican

Education: Respiratory Therapy, Paramedic
Training and Experience: 10 + Years Business Owner/Chief Financial Officer, 15+ Years Customer Service, AIPB, Bookkeeping
Campaign Email: angie.d.cliff@gmail.com
Website: http://angiecliff-fortreasurer.com
Facebook: http://angiecliff-fortreasurer



Angie Maki Cliff

Q: What is the biggest challenge in Ashtabula County and how would you address it?

A: The biggest challenge facing Ashtabula County that the Treasurer's office has a direct contribution, would be foreclosures and blighted homes. Under Ohio law, County Treasurers have the option to sell delinquent tax certificates to private companies. Companies buying tax lien certificates can charge up to 18% interest, which is crushing to anyone already under financial burden. We have a choice, we do not have to do business with a predatory company that charges the maximum allowable 18% interest, exacerbating the foreclosure crisis, however, the current Treasurer chose this option. Not only does this make it very hard for anyone to get out from under that lien, it often results in a revenue-now, short-term gain with many abandoned properties and a damaged tax base. As Treasurer, I would hold the tax liens in-office at a more digestible interest rate. This takes the power from private investors, keeps the money in our community and ensures the holder of the tax lien is accountable.

Q: Why are you running for this position?

A: We need more people from the private sector in the public sector. Too often we get career politicians or lifelong bureaucrats in charge of our offices who lose focus of their main priority, which is making sure the office is serving the citizens. They have no stake in the game, and lose track of the customer service angle which is the most important one for any office, public or private. As a local business owner and Chief Financial Officer, I not only have the necessary qualifications and experience for this position, I feel can correct the current atmosphere inside our Treasurer's Office and get it moving forward with a customer service mindset: serving the public and always trying to find ways to do so better.

See CLIFF page 18

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MEURI

From Page 1

Further, I believe our military leaders when they tell us that climate change is a national security threat. For example, many naval bases are highly susceptible to sea level rise. Further, climate change will exacerbate conflicts

JOYCE

From Page 1

ply 90 percent of our nation’s surface water, are home to 3,500 species of plants and animals, create \$62 billion in wages each year and support 1.5 million jobs. They’re a national treasure and must be preserved for future generations to come.

In addition to my work to restore the Great Lakes, I’ve introduced a number of bipartisan conservation and environmental bills, including the RECYCLE Act with Rep. Dean Phillips and a bill to extend and increase funding for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area with Rep. Tim Ryan. That’s not to mention the countless other pieces of legislation I’ve cosponsored such as the Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act and the Trillion Trees Act. We must continue to be good stewards of our environment and I will continue to work across the aisle to ensure legislation coming out of Congress helps us accomplish that.

Q: What solutions do you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system, women’s reproductive rights and maternal and child health?

A: This pandemic has underscored just how important our healthcare system is, as are those who work in it. As the proud husband of a nurse, I’ve always known that our healthcare workers are heroes but over that past several months, the word “hero” has reached a whole new meaning. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, medical professionals across the country have been working non-stop to preserve the health and safety of the American people all while risking their own.

That’s why, as the Co-Chair of the House Nursing Caucus, I led the charge to directly include \$100 billion in relief funding for hospitals and healthcare systems to battle COVID-19 on the frontlines. But even before COVID-19 swept across our nation, I was working to enhance healthcare for millions of Ohioans. The first bill I

introduced this past Congress was to protect individuals with pre-existing conditions and ensure their coverage remains intact despite legal uncertainty stemming from the Affordable Care Act’s ongoing litigation. I have also advocated for increased and unbiased access to healthcare services for those suffering from mental health disorders and worked across the aisle to combat the skyrocketing costs of prescription medications.

Q: What would you do to safeguard our elections and ensure free and fair voting access for all?

A: Both the integrity of our elections and the ability of Americans to participate in our nation’s democracy are of the utmost importance.

While states, territories and localities have primary responsibility for ensuring that election systems are secure, federal agencies also play a role in helping identify and address election system threats and vulnerabilities. That’s why, since the 2016 election, I have voted to provide more than \$800 million in federal funding to help secure our elections systems at the local level and counter threats to our nation’s democratic institutions and processes at the federal level. I was also proud to join my colleagues Reps. Marcia Fudge, Marcy Kaptur and Anthony Gonzalez for a bipartisan field hearing held by the House Administration Elections Subcommittee in Cleveland last year.

Additionally, I’ve been glad to see that every board of elections in Ohio has adopted 34 different election security measures, including physical security assessments and improvements, strengthened background checks for staff and personnel, secure websites and email domains, cyber-attack detection and network defense, and security training.

The fact of the matter is that health care should be accessible and affordable for all Ohioans and much work remains to be done to accomplish that.

around the world and may lead to mass migrations of people escaping the ensuing conflict, drought, and famine.

As Americans, we have the ability to face and overcome any challenge, and climate change requires our unique American ingenuity, spirit, and can-do attitude. What’s more, we’ve had historic successes using policy—in cooperation with business and markets—to solve major environmental issues. Despite dire warnings that solving these problems would harm the economy, the economy grew as the solutions were implemented. For example, our heavily polluted rivers, dramatized by the Cuyahoga River fire in Cleveland in 1969, were cleaned up through industry’s innovation and federal legislation (Clean Water Act).

Taking on this challenge can actually benefit us. Environment vs. economy is a false choice—the clean energy economy creates jobs in green infrastructure that can’t be shipped overseas.

Q: What solutions do you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system, women’s reproductive rights and maternal and child health?

A: Health care is a human right. In the richest country on Earth, it is inconceivable that people are forced into bankruptcy by simple accidents and forced to extremes like insulin rationing in order to make ends meet. All Americans should be able to count on affordable, available, quality health care. In pursuit of universal coverage, I support “public option” insurance in which a government-run health plan would compete with private insurers. Market forces should lead to better prices, better coverage, and better service for all Americans. Further, I support an expansion of the National Health Service Corps to increase access to doctors in high-need areas.

The Supreme Court has recognized abortion as a Constitutional right longer than I have been alive. Polling data shows 71 percent of Americans oppose overturning Roe v. Wade, including a majority of Republicans. Women’s health requires access to reproductive care; one need look no

further than Ireland and the tragic death of Savita Halapannavar to understand the consequences of involving the government in a woman’s health decisions.

Severe maternal complications have more than doubled in the last 20 years with the US rocketing to the top of high-income countries. Expanded access to health care to care for expectant mothers, new mothers, and newborn babies beyond the paltry 60 days provided for by Medicaid is necessary to ensure a healthy start to a new family.

Q: What would you do to safeguard our elections and ensure free and fair voting access for all?

A: Voting is a fundamental right of citizens. The House of Representatives has laid out a great framework for ensuring free and fair voting access and for securing our elections with its passage of H.R. 1. Among other provisions, this bill: -Requires states use paper ballots -Requires states to establish & operate an automatic voter registration system -Limits voter purges -Enables registration corrections at a polling place -Establishes same-day voter registration -Requires states to allow online voter registration -Makes Election Day a federal holiday -Establishes cybersecurity standards for voting systems vendors -Funds grants for states to improve and maintain the security of their election systems -Requires the President to produce a national strategy for protecting democratic institutions -Creates a National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions.

Beyond the direct election security measures, H.R. 1 also addresses the poisonous role of current campaign finance rules. Transparency in campaign finance is absolutely necessary in order to ensure our elections are secure from the influence of foreign nationals, special interests, and deliberate misinformation. H.R. 1: -Expands the ban on foreign nationals contributing to or spending on elections -Expands disclosure rules for organizations spending money during elections, campaign advertisements, and online platforms -Revises disclaimer requirements for political advertising.

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BRUCKMAN

From
Page
5

party system”, and would like to see more political parties recognized on ballots within the state and more independents elected into office. By doing this and breaking down the “two party” stronghold, gerrymandering will become much harder to accomplish and voters will have more of a voice.

DANA

From
Page
5

or remain at risk of losing their homes to on-going erosion. Moreover, our local Communities that depend on the lake for tourism are in danger, placing our area at risk for future economic growth.

Q: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

A: For the upcoming redistricting, the Citizens of Ohio have clearly spoken about the need to end gerrymandering. Those Constitutional reforms need an opportunity to work. While I am fearful that a few may try to circumvent the will of the people for their own personal political gain, we need to give the new process a chance to work. If it fails, the Citizens need to vote out of office those who continue to defy our Democratic Principles. I have pledged, and will continue to pledge, my support to combat gerrymandering in Ohio.

ARTHUR

From
Page
5

respect for our natural resources and the economy that is the engine powering those resources. In our efforts to preserve and restore a healthier air and water supply, we need to consider the personal and commercial freedoms which often contribute to new technologies advancing our knowledge, usage and conservation of these resources. I am pleased to have received the “2020 Friend of Agriculture” designation from the Ohio Farm Bureau (OFBF-AGGPAC) and have been endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB-PAC), which have been forward thinking organizations in promoting balance and good stewardship of these important resources.

Q: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

A: The voters have already spoken on what we will do with the passage of a Constitutional Amendment ensuring bipartisan committees and public hearings for oversight and feedback on the redistricting process. Our job is now to ensure this is done properly and to be wary of loopholes and bad actors.

Since the federal Census contributes significantly to the redistricting process, our current priority must be to assist in ensuring that an accurate and full count is made. Once redistricting is in progress, I would like to see a focus on contiguous districts with county and community borders being preserved wherever reasonably possible



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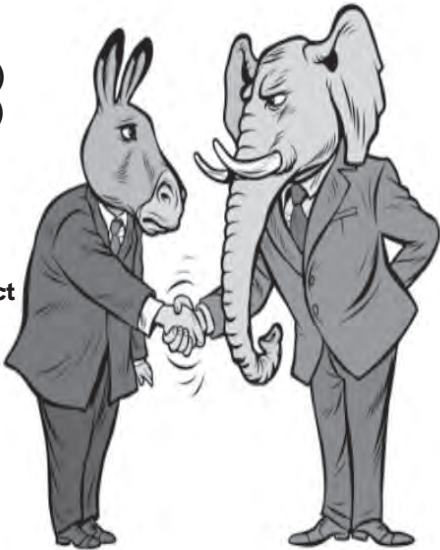
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VIRTUAL CANDIDATES' NIGHT

The League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County and the Ashtabula County District Library (ACDL) hosted Virtual Candidates' Nights in September. Invited to participate were all the Candidates running for:

- **Common Pleas Court (commencing 1/2/21)**
- **County Commissioner (commencing 1/2/21)**
- **County Commissioner (commencing 1/3/21)**
- **County Prosecutor**
- **County Clerk of Courts**
- **County Sheriff**
- **County Treasurer**
- **Representative to U.S. Congress/14th District**
- **Justice of Supreme Court (FTC 1/1/21)**
- **Justice of Supreme Court (FTC 1/2/21)**
- **Court of Appeals/11th District (FTC 2/9/21)**
- **Court of Appeals/11th District (FTC 2/10/21)**
- **Ohio Senate/32nd District**
- **Ohio Representative/99th District**
- **Ohio Representative/64th District**



The Virtual Candidates' Nights were conducted by Zoom with Rebecca Moio, ACDL Marketing Coordinator, moderating. Recording of the events can be viewed on ACDL's and LWVAC's Facebook pages and the ACDL's website.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

You must register or update your voter registration no later than 30 days prior to an election. The voter registration deadline for the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election is Oct. 5, 2020.

If you register or update your information after the deadline, the change will apply for the next election.

To register online at olvr.ohiosos.gov or you will need the following:

- **Ohio driver's license or Ohio identification card number**
- **Name**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Address**
- **Last four digits of your Social Security number**

TIPS FOR ELECTION DAY

Confirm your polling location

Polling locations may have changed since last year and voters who have moved in the past 12 months may now have to vote in a new location. Voters can contact their local board of elections or visit www.Vote411.org to confirm the correct polling locations. Voters should also learn the hours when the polls are open so they do not arrive too early or too late to vote.

Bring valid identification

In addition to a current driver's license or state photo ID, voters may present a military ID, current U.S. or Ohio government ID, original or copy of a current bank statement, utility bill, government check or paycheck, or any other government document other than a notice of voter registration. In all cases, the address on the identification must match the address on the official list of registered voters. See more information at www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/voters/id-requirements/

Confirm registration

Voters can confirm that they have registered to vote by contacting the board of elections or their website www.boe.ohio.gov, in advance of Election Day. Sometimes voters' names may not appear on the registration list when they arrive to vote, even if they previously registered. Poll workers can help voters who find themselves in such situations. But voters who want to avoid such hassles on election Day can confirm their registration beforehand.

Be familiar with candidates and issues

Voting is a privilege and a responsibility, so voters should familiarize themselves with the candidates and issues on the ballot in the weeks leading up to Election Day. In addition to national and statewide candidates and issues, voters should learn about local issues that may have a more direct impact on their daily lives.

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— Ronald Reagan

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DUCRO

From Page 7

WHITTINGTON

From Page 7

Q: As a County Commissioner, how would you seek to enhance economic development?

A: Focus on three areas: Tourism, Industry, and Education. For tourism, support the Visitor Bureau to reach target markets and showcase county assets while creating an environment for and utilize policies that encourage investment and development of and around tourism related venues.

With Industry, assist in marketing the Ashtabula and Conneaut industrial parks now that natural gas is available. Support the Port Authority in expanding the service area for Plant C and complete a raw water loop for current and future industrial clients. Support our economic development team as they work to identify, secure, retain, or expand potential or existing businesses while seeking opportunities to improve our transportation infrastructure.

Finally, promote improved graduation rates while recognizing not all students should go to college. Technical training, apprenticeships, trade schools, and job shadowing must be expanded and explored early in education. Reward businesses providing these opportunities.

Q: What is your stand on building a new county jail based on the recently completed feasibility study?

A: I support a new Community Corrections and Rehabilitation Facility, not simply a jail. Our 40-year-old facility is unable to meet today's needs. Currently, there are rarely immediate consequences for criminal actions or options to get them out of their environment and into one that can provide counseling, stability, and detox/recovery resources. A new facility would provide space to get people off the street and prevent re-offending, numerous rooms

for versatile programming areas that can change over time as the needs in our community change, and the ability to house other inmates to help minimize the cost of this facility for our local taxpayers. We can also partner with other community agencies to provide treatment, recovery, and training services. This idea has been researched and supported by criminal justice leaders, bi-partisan elected officials, and community members. Doing nothing and continue using our existing facility is not an option we can consider acceptable.

In addition, during my tenure we have worked hard to create an environment that is conducive for job creation and retention. That has meant putting a focus on infrastructure and providing an incentive for businesses to want to locate here. This work has led to the Risberg natural gas pipeline and also the development of PET-MIN which is a approximately \$500 million project underway in Ashtabula County.

Q: What is your stand on building a new county jail based on the recently completed feasibility study?

A: I firmly believe that our county must address the issue of having a jail facility that is in vast need of repair and that lacks sufficient space to meet county needs. The county jail project is an issue that is close to home for me as I was the

victim of a home burglary that meant that the men and women that committed the crime spent little to no time in jail because we lacked the space here in our county. That means that there is little deterrent to those committing these acts of crime in our county and they become repeat offenders that put a large drain on our county's system.

During my tenure I led efforts to form the Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County which is taking drug dealers off the streets of our county. But sadly, without sufficient jail space we are unable to fully meet the needs in our county as it relates to addressing this issue. This issue certainly needs addressed and that is why we are taking the steps to evaluate and proceed with jail recommendations.



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O'TOOLE

From Page 8

to balance public health and public safety regardless of color or socio-economic status. This includes being innovative bold and unafraid to try new programs that work using public and private partnerships. We must give police, courts, and prosecutors the training and the tools they need to combat the issues

Q: What types of public outreach would you perform as Prosecuting Attorney?

A: Outreach includes:

- Instilling a culture of ethical legal representation, servant leadership, and public service within the office, promoting best practice.
- Guaranteeing an effective efficient and accountable office.
- Work with and collaborate with all justice partners including the public, attorneys, litigants, judges, commissioners, news media.
- Create a completely efficient and accessible system using remote modern technology dashboards, data analytics, remote communication and social networking to make the office technologically accessible and create a culture of access including a 24-hour return contact policy for victims, clients and stakeholders.

MARIOTTI

From Page 9

not just from the confines of one office. I have real world experience, have gathered new information, and have researched modern techniques for satisfying customers to bring into the office to make it up to date. The Clerk's office does not just boil down to business management, record keeping, and data entry; it is about people. The people of our community deserve more out of our government. We need more interaction, more communication, more access, and I think what this county needs from its Clerk's office is a fresh perspective. It is my goal to demonstrate my management skills by improving the customer experience, streamlining record keeping, and expanding the online presence in the office specifically for making an impactful change in the stagnant reputation of the office to serve the people of Ashtabula County better.

PENTEK

From Page 9

Q: What distinguishes you from your opponent?

A: I am a lifelong resident of Ashtabula County and was raised in New Lyme Twp. I have been married for 40 years, have two children and six grandchildren. 25 plus years of progressive experience working every day in the Office – 8 of which as your Clerk of Courts. I believe my responses to the first 3 questions have sufficiently emphasized how important it is to have an expert working knowledge of the Office of the Clerk of Courts before seeking election to said Office – Experience Matters and in that context, I have a thorough understanding of the Ohio Rules of Superintendence, experienced in Collective Bargaining negotiations from both sides of the table and as a member of the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association, County Data, Records Retention & Jail Needs Assessment Boards. I efficiently manage a nearly 1-million-dollar budget between two departments and have annually financed the purchase of Sheriff Cruisers for the past eight years! Experience Matters!

COOPER

From Page 8

ecutor. I work with the Child Advocacy Center's multidisciplinary team to improve the investigation and prosecution of child sexual assault cases. I am part of the sexual assault response team working to ensure rape victims receive the support and counseling they will need throughout the criminal justice process. I work with experts in their fields to expand the treatment options available to those dealing with addiction.

I would like to become more involved in projects in our school systems. We must encourage our youth to stay in school and get their education. We need to continue to educate them about the dangers of drug use. I would like to be more involved in that outreach.

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League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County history

On Oct. 21, 1968, Gail Graham, wife of the Episcopal minister in Jefferson and a member-at-large of the League of Women Voters and Esther Buchan Blevins, a fifteen year member of the Geauga County League, met in Jefferson and agreed to start a League in Ashtabula County. The five Charter Members necessary to start the League were: Gail Graham, President; Matilda Obernyer, Julia Waters, Judith Weir and Esther Blevins.

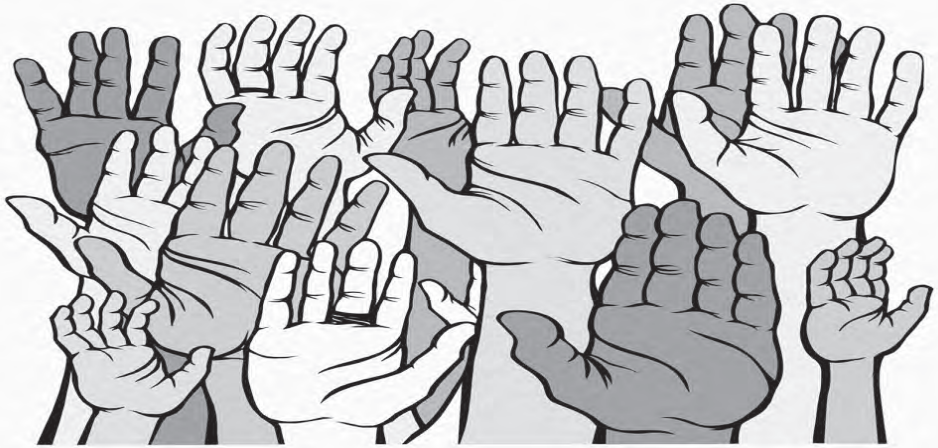
Know Your County (required for full membership in the League of Women Voters) was the first local study completed by the group. After three years as a provisional League, the Ashtabula County League was fully recognized in January of 1972. Local President at the time was Jane Ailey.

The first League Candidates' Night in Ashtabula County was held in October 1972, at Kent State co-sponsored by AAUW and the Chamber of Commerce. The Directory of Health Services for Ashtabula County Residents was published in May 1974 as the result of a two-year study.

Some of the topics studied during the League's early days were: water pollution, the Electoral College, housing in Ashtabula County, the Ohio Constitution, U.S. policy towards China, public education finance, welfare reform and Congressional representation for the District of Columbia.

Early projects included a local study on juvenile justice that was instrumental in the building of the present facility. In 1990, the Ashtabula League received a \$7,500 grant from the LWVUS Education Fund to start an after school child care project in conjunction with the Ashtabula Area City Schools.

VOTE!



CRAGON

From Page 11

this position. I am running for re-election because I am confident I can continue to lead the office in a positive direction despite economic uncertainty.

Q: How would you increase the efficiency of this office?

A: Since taking office, staffing decreased from 6 full-time and 1 part-time employees to 4 full-time employees, which decreased office expenses while still performing all duties of the Treasurer's office. Collections have continued to increase, and my office recorded the largest tax

collection on record in both dollars and in proportion to the amount billed in 2020, despite the pandemic. Additionally, we currently have the lowest tax delinquency on record, and are on track to reduce the delinquency even further by year's end. Investments have returned income beyond the market expectations with the highest earnings in 2019. My staff and I are always looking for ways to improve and have recently realigned staff duties so that everyone is cross-trained in the event of an absence so that efficiencies are not lost or set aside.

JOHNSON

From Page 10

Q: Describe any efforts you would make to create a more diverse deputy staff.

A: Diversity is important in law enforcement and my office currently partners with local community organizations and social services agencies which results in a better understanding and respect for different

ethnic groups. The Sheriff's Office presently employs deputy sheriffs and civilian personnel from diverse backgrounds.

I will continue to recruit people with diverse backgrounds, talents and experience. This helps foster different ideas and perspectives which lead to better problem solving in our community.

CLIFF

From Page 11

Q: How would you increase the efficiency of this office?

A: The key to optimizing anything is knowing where to focus to increase efficiency. There are three areas I plan to focus on:

- 1) Extending the hours the office is available to accept payments and serve the public, as well as the options available for payment, such as credit cards
- 2) Implementing system automations so that notifications may be sent to email or phone numbers when an account is due or past due,
- 3) Responding timely and being available to the requests and needs of other

departments when collecting funds for the county.

I believe this will enable us to collect taxes fairly and efficiently, make the office user-friendly and more responsive to the taxpayer's needs while ensuring the tax collection system is easily understood, transparent, and has a tone that make people feel comfortable reaching out to us for questions.

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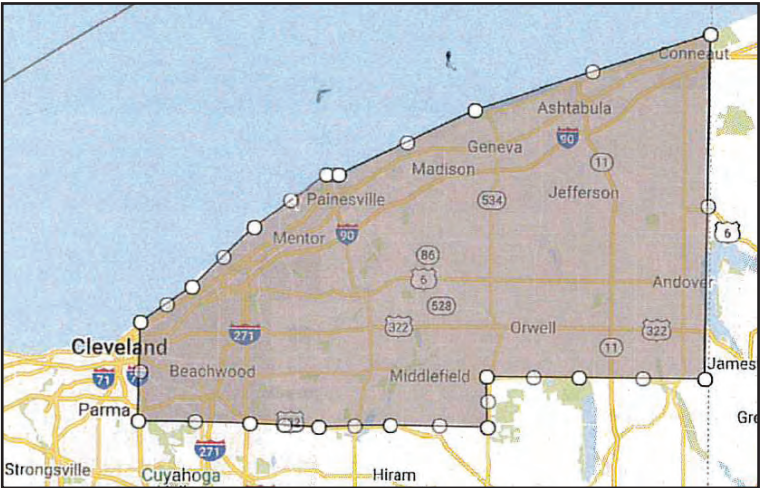
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