



Voter Information Guide

General Election

November 7, 2017

Published by the League of Women Voters of the Lima Area

Linda Morrow, Chairperson

Email: lwvlima@gmail.com

This nonpartisan publication has been published by the League of Women Voters of the Lima Area to provide a forum for political candidates.

The materials contained in this publication were assembled in the following manner:

- Questions were selected by the League of Women Voters of the Lima Area and addressed to the local candidates.
- Questions were selected by the League of Women Voters of Ohio and submitted to statewide candidates.
- Candidates submitted their information electronically.
- Candidates were informed that their responses would be printed in their own words, which has in fact been done, and that each would be solely responsible for the contents of the replies.

The League of Women Voters in publishing this material neither endorses nor rejects the view of any candidate quoted and does not and cannot assume responsibility for the contents of any candidate's reply.

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LIMA AREA ARE:

- Women and men of all ages from the Lima area interested in the issues affecting our community.
- Providers of voter education guides at every election to educate and inform on local, state and national issues.
- Host to local meetings with speakers and programs on current issues.
- Distributors of educational materials for high school and middle school students to increase awareness of government functions.
- Facilitators engaging political candidates in public forums and debates to increase voter awareness.
- Advocates for voter registration and greater citizen participation in the governmental process.
- Members of the State and National League of Women Voters network.

The League of Women Voters of the Lima Area encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Go to www.lwvlima.org to see how you can become involved

VOTE • Tuesday, November 7, 2017 • Polls Open 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.

General Election Day

November 7, 2017

City of Lima Mayor - Term Commences 12/01/17

The Mayor shall be the the chief executive officer of the City and shall be elected for a term of four years. He shall not hold any other public office or employment, except that of notary public or member of the State militia.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$135,000



David Berger, Mayor of Lima

Current Occupation: Mayor, City of Lima, Ohio

Education: B.A. & M.A., Philosophy, Catholic University of America

Training & Experience: Certified in Community Economic Development through the Development Training Institute of Baltimore, Maryland

Web Site <http://bergerformayor.com>

1. What is your five-year vision for economic development in the city?

Over the next 5 years, we will continue to improve and sustain employment in Lima, foster opportunities for increased prosperity for Lima's citizens, and position Lima as a leading community of choice to live, work, and play.

We improve and sustain employment in Lima by both retaining the businesses that we have and attracting the new businesses that we want. To attract new businesses, the City will remain a close working partner with our lead economic development agency, the Allen Economic Development Group. Together we market our community, facilitate incentives for projects, plan and build required infrastructure and industrial parks, and reshape and hone our workforce development strategies.

To retain existing businesses, I will continue to lead efforts to keep businesses in our community. As the Chair of Task Force LIMA, I have worked with stakeholders for the JSMC to keep it a vital industrial and defense asset. Through that work we were able to bring funding from the Department of Defense to develop a strategic plan for our community, which is now being implemented, and has contributed to hundreds of new jobs and tens of millions of dollars being invested in that facility.

We have to recognize that our region has a surplus of thousands of jobs that will continue over the next decade as the economy grows and the Baby Boomer Generation retires in increasing numbers. This means opportunities for increasing prosperity for Lima's citizens. I will continue to make it broadly known that good paying jobs are here and now available. We will increase training resources for incumbent workers and for those who need to improve their skills and educational attainments and continue our work to remove barriers to employment for the unemployed or underemployed, such as transportation and day care. Lastly, the unique opportunities we have invented such as Makerfest, Hometown Advantage, and Link Lima showcase Lima's business and industry and create an exciting awareness among students and the general public about careers and job opportunities now available in our local economy.

These strategies are working: a report from a local industry indicates that of the 30 recent hires that they made half of the new employees were folks who had returned to Lima from elsewhere in the country. They had heard about the good paying jobs opportunities and wanted to return home! That is the sort of economic development that grows our community in so many positive ways.

2. While we expect Rhodes College expansion to help revitalize downtown Lima, what plans do you have to continue this revitalization with other entities?

The Rhodes State College project is a \$20 million development that will permanently root the school and its resources in the center of our community. It will bring 800-1000 people to the facility on a daily basis, people who will have a variety of wants and needs before and after their classes. Retail and professional service business opportunities will thus be stimulated by the presence of these

students and staff at Rhodes. And as a result we will see the further development of restaurants, niche retail shopping, and services like dry cleaning to respond to these needs.

Similarly, the renovation of the 1st National Bank Building for housing and for offices will also bring more people into the downtown, fostering a density that will add further demand for more retail and services. This \$17 million project will restore a classic historic structure and will encourage other housing developers to consider doing the same with other multi-story buildings in the Central Business District. We are already seeing this kind of positive affect with the recent announcement that the owner of the Metro Center Building (formerly the headquarters for the Metropolitan Bank of Lima) intends to renovate the building for housing and retail.

The positive momentum that is building in our downtown began several years ago as entrepreneurs and developers began to establish new restaurants. The first of those was The Meeting Place, followed by The Met, Old City Prime, Fat Cat Diner, Vivace and The Hollander. All of these establishments together in the core of the downtown have created a terrific buzz and positive energy for others to also consider investing in the downtown.

In order to continue this reinvestment climate, we are moving ahead in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, AEDG, and Downtown Lima to create an energy district. This will permit special financing opportunities for renovation of energy systems and energy conservation technologies for commercial buildings in the downtown and throughout the city. Beyond this, we are evaluating other development financing tools such as tax increment financing, the establishment of a Downtown Redevelopment District, and the possible creation of a Community Entertainment District under newly enacted state laws.

3. Crime prevention and the safety of residents is a primary concern for residents, what can city government AND the private sector do to make Lima a safer place to live?

The partnership opportunities which can be forged between law enforcement and the community via Community Oriented Policing represent a full spectrum of ways in which the safety of our residents can be enhanced.

Community police officers are now deployed in 5 hot spot areas. There our officers actively reach out to residents and to businesses to create relationships, to identify issues and then to work on solutions. These issues can be drug houses, opioid overdoses, uncontrolled pit bulls, traffic, shots fired, domestic violence, etc. The officers then seek out agencies or partners who can help to solve the problems identified. A highly effective partnership now working in this way is the active engagement of a Community Navigator/Social Worker from Coleman Professional Services who teams with COP officers to follow up on all persons who experience an opioid overdose to direct them into treatment.

The strengthening of our neighborhood associations is essential to increasing the safety and well being of our neighborhoods. The private sector, both businesses located within given neighborhoods and those prominent in our community as a whole, can be important resources for these associations. The neighborhood associations need human talent for their projects and for the staffing of their organizations. They need people who can fill officer roles like President, Treasurer, and committee chairs. They need experienced professionals to assist with strategic planning and project implementation. Much like well established service clubs like Optimists and Rotary, neighborhood associations need committed and engaged people who will work to improve the specific neighborhoods where they are rooted.

Third, the need for the private sector to be involved with our schools and our school children should not be underestimated for the benefit such involvement could have both on students and the community. While there are a number of volunteers engaged as mentors with students, there is a need for literally hundreds of adults who can become significant in the lives of children. Beyond mentor-

(David Berger's response continued on page 3)

ing, there is a crying need for after school programming, with transportation for children to be able to access that programming. A combined strategic partnership in the private sector to resource these needs would create positive and productive alternatives for many children who are unsupervised and left to their own devices.

4. If the governor balances the state budget at the expense of municipalities, as has occurred in the past, how will you make up the shortfall?

The combined actions of the Ohio legislature and governor over the past decade have substantially and negatively impacted the budgets of all local governments, and as a result reduced our ability to take care of many pressing local needs. By eliminating tangible personal property taxes and estate taxes, and by dramatically reducing local government funds, the state has taken away \$3 million per year from the City of Lima. Allen County, the townships, villages, the park districts and the libraries have also seen substantial reductions in their revenues.

All the while that the state has been doing this they have balanced the state budget, grown state programs, and established a multi-billion dollar "rainy day fund". It is not an exaggeration to say that the state accomplished these objectives by deliberately taking resources away from local governments.

Should this be a continuing practice, I will continue to be public in my denunciations of this as an erosion of our ability to take care of local needs. I will continue to partner with other local government leaders in making the case for the state to re-establish the funds that they have removed.

As for managing the city's budget, we will do as we have done: we will assess and prioritize our local needs, submit a balanced budget by reducing costs, and work with City Council to adopt a balanced budget as required by law.

5. Please discuss minority hiring policies, citing whether you believe the current efforts are adequate or inadequate and cite specific examples.

The City of Lima is committed to hiring practices that seek the highest quality personnel and that achieves a demographic make-up that is reflective of the diversity of our community. Though we have seen a slight improvement in recent years, moving from 7% minority participation in the workforce to 10%, this is far short of the goal of 28%.

The major impediment to making additional progress is the way in which the civil service rules discourage qualified applicants from taking the tests.

Specifically, under current rules known as the RULE OF 10, the City administration can only consider a limited number of those who successfully take and pass the civil service entrance exams. For example, if we have two openings in the police department and we ask for a police test and if there are 100 persons who pass the test, by the RULE OF 10, the administration can only interview and consider the top 20 of those who passed the test. This means that 80 individuals passed whom we cannot interview or consider.

Because these sorts of rules have been in place for many years, we have a climate where many folks believe that it is not useful for them to consider taking the tests.

For several years now, I have instead asked that the Civil Service Board and Lima City Council change the rules so that the Administration can interview and consider every person who successfully passes the Civil Service tests. Only by being able to consider everyone who passes can we assure ourselves and the public that we are getting the best applicants and reduce the negative climate that discourages citizens from taking the tests.



Keith Cheney, Chief Operating Officer

Current Occupation: Executive Chairman Allen County Republican Party

Education: Elida High School

Training & Experience: Operated a Multi-million dollar Business O.P.M.C.A. Board of Directors Private and Public Sector Experience Completed courses on Business Law and Environmental Regulations Experienced in Human Resources Created Private Sector Jobs

Web Site <http://www.keithcheney.com>

1. What is your five-year vision for economic development in the city?

My economic plan for the near future of Lima is to make Lima a viable and inviting place to conduct business; a pro-business friendly community. Currently this is not the case under the Berger administration. While individuals have persevered to proceed with personal economic development in downtown Lima, it has not been with ease. And that is what will change under my direct administrative oversight. My personal business and marketing experiences of establishing and growing businesses within the private sector uniquely provides an understanding of the development processes entrepreneurs endure in establishing a business within a community. Currently, economic growth within the Lima City limits is drastically hindered through the current administration's rules, regulatory issues, development processes and procedures, and overall policies regarding the establishment

and/or growth of any business within the city. A Cheney administration will review and establish best practices to encourage growth and promote an easily navigated and assisted process for expediting economic development. We will operate with a pro-business friendly attitude in the City of Lima where the current timeline of "Business at the Speed of Government" will become "Government at the Speed of Business", resulting in actual "local" development of employment and economic opportunities for our citizens. The lack of economic gravitas is a prime causation condition to lesser desired actions of some of our citizens, which must change. Local opportunities will provide a pathway for personal and entrepreneurial success within in our city limits.

I have already met with a number of entrepreneurs who already understand the changes that will be made to make Lima business friendly and who, when I am elected Mayor, are willing to invest in our City's economic development. My plan which will result in immediate economic development and cannot be capsulated to just a 5-year plan. Economic development will commence within my first year in office and continue to build and expand throughout my tenure in office. Lima will become known not only locally, regionally, in the State but throughout the Nation as a business-friendly City where investors will want to do business. A Better Lima For All!

2. While we expect Rhodes College expansion to help revitalize downtown Lima, what plans do you have to continue this revitalization with other entities?

The Rhodes State College expansion could certainly be a catalyst for spurring further downtown revitalization in Lima. Citizens should first realize that no government creates jobs. A government entity is responsible for the establishment and development of a climate which is conducive to the encouragement of the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals locally and inviting to those investors outside of the Lima area to come to our area and promote revitalization in various ways to the benefit of our local citizens and visitors alike. With regards to the Rhodes State College expansion project; I am proud to be the only candidate seeking the Mayor's office seat to have successfully lobbied and worked with both the State Board of Regents and the Ohio State Legislature for securing an investment of \$10,000,000.00 in funding for this project. I am already in constant communications with private investors and economic development entities for plans to not only revitalize, but rather enhance the downtown Lima area further than what we already witness or is planned. In order to create total Downtown revitalization, we must first address and eliminate the downtown crime that continues to take place. Last year numerous downtown shootings occurred and so far this year there have been numerous shootings and a murder. This can and will cease through a plan I have that will be implemented bringing Downtown business owners and the Lima Police Department together to create a safe environment for patrons to Downtown. For a number of months, I have been diligently working with a group of investors willing to invest in Downtown Lima upon my being elected Mayor. The plan I am working on will include a uniquely laid out Entertainment District, Restaurants, loft apartment housing, and increased shopping opportunities through niche stores. I will create a bustling Downtown atmosphere that will be very desirable not only for our residents but for visitors to come and enjoy! A Downtown Lima that will once again benefit our City and become a viable option where investors will want to conduct business. A Better Lima For All!

3. Crime prevention and the safety of residents is a primary concern for residents, what can city government AND the private sector do to make Lima a safer place to live?

The Lima City government and private sectors have a responsibility for enhancing the quality of life in the Lima area. A good quality of life means having the means of making a good living whereby a family can be supported and having an environment conducive to living, working, and ensuring the safety of all citizens. Regardless of the attempts under the current administration to dismiss the findings, the rising criminal statistics in Lima is reality not merely a just a perception. In 2016, Lima set a 10-year record for Murders and Serious Crime increased by 10% (Source: LPD Uniform Crime Report to the FBI). These crimes include: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson. The lack of concern from the current administration has afforded the environment for allowing them to be perpetuated in every corner of our great city. The Lima City Charter specifically details the Mayor is the Chief Conservator of the Peace within the City; including the supervision of all of the administration. As your Mayor, I will take seriously these responsibilities, and on day one, will immediately begin working alongside the great men and women of the Lima Police Department on a daily basis for cooperatively addressing these crimes through enforcement and prevention. Citizens Safety will be a top priority in my administration. Currently, the LPD is 24 Sworn Officers short staffed. These valiant officers our serve our city deserve and will have the full support of this mayoral candidate, which includes making sure they have the proper and necessary equipment for ensuring success in keeping our citizens safe. This is not creating an environment of a "Police State" or encumbering a citizen's free rights; rather it is for ensuring a safe community at

(Keith Cheney's response continued on page 4)

the expense of the criminal elements plaguing our very neighborhoods and streets. A Crime Watch program will be implemented throughout each neighborhood, supported by my Administration and Lima Police Department personnel to deter crime. A unique Community Oriented Policing model will be introduced to assist our C.O.P. Officers in achieving their goals to reduce crime. A Safe Lima Will Be A Top Cheney Administration Priority!

4. If the governor balances the state budget at the expense of municipalities, as has occurred in the past, how will you make up the shortfall?

Regardless of the activities or in-activities of the state government with regards to Lima's finances, my goal is to secure the fiscal viability of the city. Certainly, my administration will seek to achieve bringing as many of our hard earned tax dollars back to the Lima community. However, a city simply built on government dependency is a city destined to fall. Whether or not the state cuts our funding, I will implement L.C.S.I. (Lima Common Sense Initiatives) to be conducting a complete and whole review of every City Departmental operations, procedures and policies for determining best practices, resulting in cost and time saving measures as well as productivity enhancement. Throughout my business career, I found that some of the best cost and time saving measures came, not from management, but from employees who complete the day to day tasks of their job duties. Therefore, all employees from every department will be empowered and sought to participate and share their ideas for the aforementioned activities and others relevant to them. This is another example of A Better Lima For All! My successful economic development activities will result in the creation of good paying jobs, unlike the false assurance of Global Energy, and will create economic opportunities inside the City limits that will increase revenues paid to the City. My opponent has TWICE supported and lobbied for an Income Tax increase on our citizens. I will NEVER support an Income Tax Increase. Lima can and will survive through economic growth and cost savings measurers. Creating A Better Lima For All!

5. Please discuss minority hiring policies, citing whether you believe the current efforts are adequate or inadequate and city specific examples.

A community employment percentage representative of it's demographics is essential for everyone to feel and be a part of their community. With respect to the current hiring practices of minority candidates for employment, I will enhance those opportunities through a more in-depth and participating process for those seeking employment. As your Mayor, I will, as will my Administration, work directly with the minority communities for expressing job opportunities and to encourage those seeking the very positions available. For example, the Mayor recently hired 5 five new police officers and all of them are Caucasian once again increasing the disparity percentage of minority officers. I will personally make it a priority to hire minority police officers and will do so through personal contact and promotion of opportunities available. A direct outreach program through my Administration will result in more minority police officers. As Mayor, I will personally promote the job opportunities offered in the City within various administrative departments, including the Lima Fire and Police Departments. I truly mean what I say, I want to make Lima a Better City for All! This means everyone participating and benefiting from what our City has to offer. I have already successfully opened up communications and opportunities within the minority communities which until now have gone stagnant under this current administration with certain minority affiliations. As your Mayor, I will continue to do so and look forward to working with Everyone for a successful and viable City of Lima we know it can be. A Better Lima For All!

LIMA MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Term Commences 1/01/18

The Lima Municipal Court handles traffic, criminal and civil matters originating in Allen County, Ohio.

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$119,850

David A. Rodabaugh

No reply received.



CITY OF LIMA DIRECTOR OF LAW

Term Commences 1/01/18

The law department has two divisions: civil and criminal. The civil division is responsible for a wide variety of civil legal matters for the city, and also provides assistance and support to the criminal division.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$129,578

Anthony Geiger, City Law Director

Current Occupation: City Law Director

Education: University of Dayton, JD 1983 --- University of Dayton, BSBA 1979 --- LCC 1975

Training & Experience: Current City Law Director; past Assistant Law Director, Assistant City Prosecutor, and Civil Service Board member.

CITY OF LIMA AUDITOR

Term Commences 1/01/18

The Auditor is the city's chief fiscal officer. The auditor's office is in charge of accounts payable, payroll, purchasing and presenting the city's financial statement each year. In addition the office is responsible for ensuring compliance with the budget expenditures, and that all State and Federal laws regarding finances are followed.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$94,735

Randall S. Bartels

Current Occupation: City Auditor

Education: Elida High School graduate, class of 1982. Graduate of The Ohio State University, 1999, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Training & Experience: I have attended numerous training sessions conducted by the national Government Finance Officers Association. In addition I have attend training sessions conducted by the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association as well as serving on their Education Committee for the past 12 years. I have also participated in training courses offered by the State Auditor's office and the State Treasurer's office.

CITY OF LIMA COUNCIL

1st WARD Term Commences 1/01/18

City Council members must be a resident of their respective Ward. Council Members are to ensure the city fulfills its duties under the law and lawfully exercises its powers. They act as liaisons between the city and the general public. Their concerns are the conduct of the daily affairs of the city and also the future development of the city. They have authority over the administrative affairs in the city and legislating for the city.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$12,115.



Todd Gordon, 1st Ward Lima City Council

Current Occupation: Air Quality Tech

Education: Graduate of Elida High School, Some College Courses at

Rhodes State Training & Experience: 4 Years Lima City Council

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the First Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

Now that we have Rhodes State College coming to Downtown and the 45 Town Square Building getting renovated as well as the beautiful new Stadium Park in place, I would like to see us focus on the renovation of our neighborhoods. Focus our time and money on paving the streets, replacing the curbs and sidewalks in not just the First Ward but the entire city of Lima.

(Todd Gordon's response continued on page 5)

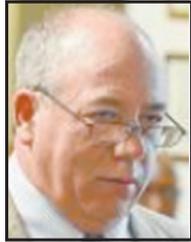
Working as the chair of the Public Works committee for the last 2 years, and being a part of it all 4 years, I have worked on many projects and have learned the process. I have also been appointed to the Community Development committee with the Region Planning Commission and have learned how municipalities get Federal Funding for projects like this.

2. List the major safety changes you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issues.

The major safety issues in the 1st Ward is the continued drug problem that we see all over the city, state and nation. As the First Ward City Councilor I was at the fore front of bringing back the C.O.P. Neighborhood Stations. I also have supported the Lima Police Department on every request. I personally would like to see us invest more money into the Lima Police Department to clean up the drug problems we have in our area. Another issue I would like to address would be the gun violence and violence in general we have been experiencing with our youth in Lima. I have and always will support all of our Safety Service personnel.

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decisions made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

The majority of the decisions made on Council pertain to the overall betterment of the City. There are several qualities I believe I have, one being that I listen to the constituents and communicate with people throughout the Ward and the City. Also my willingness to be a respectful person to everyone, including those I may disagree with, helps work through problems and conflict in a peaceful manner. One example being in my past, I was a Union President at my place of employment and while working with management we were able to settle issues through communications as much as possible. Therefore we had the least grievances in the history of a Union Presidents regimen. My commonsense and understanding of situations also help expedite issues and problems. Finally I will not be outworked, being persistent at solving problems was bred into me from childbirth.



Ray Magnus, Retired / Business Owner

Current Occupation: Retired / Business Owner
Education: College
Training & Experience: Former 1st Ward City Councilman, Former Police Officer

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the First Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

The changes I expect are the amount of vacant / abandoned structures being demolished in the 1st Ward. This will open the area up for new homes, new businesses or green spaces to be used for community gardens or kids playgrounds. I have been an advocate for the demolition of these properties for about 15 years. I have personally been involved with the neighborhood association to fulfill this responsibility.

2. List the major safety changes you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issues.

Demo the vacant / abandoned properties in the ward. This removes places for the people doing wrong to hide. The 1st Ward is lacking in proper working street lights. Install more lights in neighborhoods. Work (as I am doing) to get more people involved with neighborhood associations. Work with the city / county police to foster a trust between the police and the residents. Continue to communicate with the authorities (as I am doing) on getting rid of the drug houses in the ward and city.

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decisions made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

I have a very good relationship with the local / county / state / federal elected and appointed officials to be able to foster a positive working relationship to be heard and to get things done. I'm a very positive results oriented individual that will ask the questions to get answers to our problems. I'm not a yes man regardless of who might be the official and I will continue to ask and demand answers to a lot of why questions.

CITY OF LIMA COUNCIL

3rd WARD Term Commences 1/01/18

City Council members must be a resident of their respective Ward. Council Members are to ensure the city fulfills its duties under the law and lawfully exercises its powers. They act as liaisons between the city and the general public. Their concerns are the conduct of the daily affairs of the city and also the future development of the city. They have authority over the administrative affairs in the city and legislating for the city.

Salary: \$12,115

Term: 4 years



Jesse J Lowe II, 3rd Ward Councilman City of Lima

Current Occupation: Cosmetologist/Councilman
Education: Graduate of Lima Senior High School
U.S. Navy Machinist Mate/ Boiler Tech A school
Ohio State Beauty Academy
Training & Experience: US NAVY
Ohio State Beauty Academy

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the Third Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

Lima's 3rd is currently growing faster than any other ward. We are setting a benchmark for the city and will continue to grow under my leadership. Within the next 10 years I see major infrastructure taking place within our neighborhoods. Lima must learn to welcome new businesses. Under my leadership I will make this happen through legislation and determination for a better Lima. We currently have great resources that will supply businesses with the tools they need to be successful. Within the next ten years 3rd ward will prove that Lima is the place to be. We must invest within our neighborhoods, schools and children for this change to manifest. I truly believe that God has not put me in this position to fail. He placed me in leadership to be the head, listen and lead. I stand for right no matter what and I work hard everyday. Positive and major change starts with leadership! I'm not here for the position, I'm here for the mission.

2. List the major safety issues you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issues.

Major safety issues within 3rd ward:

- 1) Poor sidewalks and streets: Allocated CDBG funds must pay for this and quit using it to pay administration.
- 2) Code enforcement: We must hire more full time code enforcement employees for the Community Development Department
- 3) Dilapidated houses: Communication between the county and the city must improve when it pertains to demolitions that are needed.
- 4) Drugs: Citizens must report when they see activity in their neighborhood and the police need to do better following up on leads.

As the Neighborhood Concerns Committee Chairman I will work hard at improving these and any other important issues 3rd ward may have. It takes a good working relationship with administration and council for this to happen. I will do whatever it takes for these issues to be solved. Government funding is not the answer all of the time. We, collectively must want better living conditions. I'm willing to lead this change with your continued support 3rd ward.

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decision made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

My experience for the last eight years has taught me a lot about being a servant for the citizens of Lima. Many decisions have taken place that did not necessarily pertain to 3rd ward only. Serving on utilities committee and having water issues were major items that needed attention fairly quickly. Legal decisions must be made in executive sessions. Budget hearings are rather intense and crucial for the city to move forward. Being a member of the economic committee made me always look at three things when making city wide decisions. Number one, is it fare? Number two, will it make someone's life better in some sort of way? Thirdly, what is the overall cost of my deciding vote. My knowledge and willingness to do the right thing for Lima allows me to make fantastic decisions. I love the fact my mission on city council motivates me to be a better man also. Lima and 3rd ward residents elect and pay me to do what's best for them. I vote according to their needs and desires at council.



Carla A. Thompson, Educator

Current Occupation: Teaching Artist/Community Activist

Education: Bachelors in English- Cleveland State University
Masters in Education- Indiana Wesleyan University

Training & Education: Teacher: Canton City Schools, Cleveland Municipal School District, Rhodes State College. Membership and Marketing Chair: Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Lima Homemaker, wife, mother.

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the Third Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

I believe that we are in a position where our inner-city neighborhoods will turn around. There is a desire in the community to see improvements in home care and property value. We currently have some major tools at our disposal to improve our housing conditions and sense of community. My leadership would include taking full advantage of being in a neighborhood association and the resources that would be provided to us through that effort. I also plan to be active in helping neighborhoods see what they would like done with properties after they are torn down as part of the land bank process come to fruition. In addition, I believe that the proposed landlord registry has the potential to be beneficial to the community by helping some of our homes get some of the maintenance they so desperately need. I will help research and design a registry that both tenants and landlords would see value in and would ultimately benefit our neighbor

2. List the major safety issues you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issues.

Theft and drug sales and use are issues I hear about from constituents. A landlord registry and tenant programs will address one aspect of the heroine epidemic by keeping out-of-state drug dealers from renting properties with no intention of living in the home but of using it as a base for drug sales. Also, more prevention programs need developed. Theft and drug use are often an outgrowth of bored, unsupervised children trying to make quick money or feel a part of something. I have helped design various academic and arts programs that help teens develop a sense of self respect, respect for others and plan for the future. I will work with government, schools, and community groups to provide engaging activities for teens and turn them into a community resource. While in Cleveland, I implemented a GED program in conjunction with Cuyahoga County that helped clients become work ready. I will help develop more programs that train our residents for the jobs available in the Lima area.

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decision made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

My work as an educator and union representative has been integral in teaching me about team work, team-based intervention, and respect for your colleagues. To really take care of your students, you have to make sure that the entire school is a safe place where they and your coworkers are respected. As a council member, I will respect the role of the local government, the work done by my fellow council members, and the needs of the community as a whole. Wards are not magical barriers of separation. For some of us, the other ward is just across the street or a block away. What benefits Lima, benefits my neighbors, benefits me. We have to care about the entire city, if we want to see true progress and prosperity. The revitalization in the downtown area and the addition of Rhodes State will benefit the entire city, not just my ward. Council should be teaming with local businesses in the downtown area and nonprofits like Downtown Lima Inc., to continue this very important growth.

CITY OF LIMA COUNCIL 5th WARD Term Commences 1/01/18

City Council members must be a resident of their respective Ward. Council Members are to ensure the city fulfills its duties under the law and lawfully exercises its powers. They act as liaisons between the city and the general public. Their concerns are the conduct of the daily affairs of the city and also the future development of the city. They have authority over the administrative affairs in the city and legislating for the city.

Salary: \$12,115

Term: 4 years

Teresa Adams, Retired

Current Occupation: Serving on Lima City Council

Training & Experience: 8 years on City Council Lima's Neighborhood Care Academy 2009 Regional Planning Commission *Past Chair Traffic Committee *Past President Regional Planning Commission

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the Fifth Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

The Grade Separation/Underpass on Elm St is moving forward along with the Roundabout involving Bellefontaine Ave, Elm and Calumet Ave. Both projects will be done at the same time with an estimated completion date of September 2019. Hold Public Informational Meetings and support legislation presented to Council on these (2) projects.

Also upcoming in the near future is the replacement of (2) Bridges on Pine St and Elm St. All the above projects will provide safe travel for residents and business traffic and allow Safety Services to respond in a timely matter to residents and business.

Various street and drainage improvements in the 5th Ward going forward as well. I have met with the Administration numerous times on issues in the 5th Ward and I am excited going forward with the above projects and some concerning drainage issues still on the drawing board but hope to see completed in the next 4 years.

2. List the major safety changes you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issues.

Recently open the 2nd C.O.P. (Community Oriented Policing) Station with the 1st C.O.P. Station having open this time last year. This is to build a relationship and communication between LPD and the residents of the 5th Ward with their concerns and issues. I have supported legislation for both C.O.P. Stations as well as legislation for not only LPD but also the Fire Department for equipment and manpower.

Improvements in Lincoln Park, MLK and ALL parks by replacing the playground equipment with ADA accessibility. This will help in therapy activities held by Lima Memorial Hospital and other organizations. Parents will be able to take their children to All parks making them more accessible. Replacement/Improvements in sidewalks by making them wider around the schools for a safe passage. This improvement was not only in the 5th Ward but the entire City as well.

The 5th Ward has lead the way in removing/demolition of blighted properties. This has stabilized the neighborhoods and I have witnessed home improvements occurring and drug activity once coming from these blighted properties is also removed. I have been involved in adjacent property owners buying the lots through the land bank and I make it a point to inform the adjacent owners of the Land Bank Program through the City but now also through Allen County Land Bank.

All of the above has provided for a Better Quality of Life in the 5th Ward and the City.

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decisions made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

I am experienced by having served 2 terms on council, I currently serve as Chair of the Finance Committee, member of the Human Resources Committee and past Chair/current member of the Public Works Committee. I am accessible to the residents of the 5th Ward as well as the residents of the City. I maintain a Good working relationship with City and County Officials.

Jamie Dixon, Service Coordinator

Current Occupation: National Church Residences/ Lima Towers as a Service Coordinator where I advocate and bridge services on behalf of the senior citizens and people with disabled, to make sure that they have a quality of life while remaining independent.

Education: High School - Lima Senior High Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Travel and Hospitality from International Business College

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the Fifth Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

Some of the changes that I would expect to occur in the 5th Ward over the next 10 years would be to see new development. When you drive around the ward you see many vacate lots, wooded area that could all be used for development for new homes, community gardens and community centers or businesses, that all count enhance the quality of life for the residents in the ward and city.

Speaking about Hope Street, where the road just stops and there lies a large field that could be utilized. The wooded area that has become a junk/dump field that is located between Dingledine Ave. and Michael Ave. My leadership will impact that change because I will keep an optimistic mind set, all while taking the initiatives to meet with businesses, community programs and developers so that we as a ward

(Jamie Dixon's response continued on page 7)

and city will be ready to take advantage of the different opportunities, that may come our way.

2. List the major safety changes you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issues.

The 5th Ward has seen a major change in the way that our neighborhoods look and feel. These changes concern's me because as a resident whom was born, raised and live in the ward we've seen a large increasing number of abandon and dilapidated houses which had become spaces for crime, drugs and squatting that has contributes to the decline in the safety and peaceful enjoyment of the residents in our neighborhoods. I plan to face this problem head on by partnering with our local police department, county sheriff, code enforcement, city developer, land bank and by jumpstarting our community neighborhood associations in the Ward, which has been inactive for some time.

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decisions made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

I believe what qualifies me to represent my ward is one which I stated above; I am a born and raised product of the 5th Ward, so I will be representing the people in which I can relate to their problems and concerns. In addition to working with the youth of the area and working as a Service Coordinator for the last 6 years, where I advocate and bridge services on behalf of senior citizens and persons with disabilities, to make sure that they have a quality of life while aging in place and doing so independently. I will be able to utilize my education, skills and learning experiences. So, that the right decisions can be made for the ward and city, All while at the same time remaining humble enough to know that when the neighborhoods thrive so will the city of Lima.

**CITY OF LIMA COUNCIL
7th WARD Term Commences 1/01/18**

City Council members must be a resident of their respective Ward. Council Members are to ensure the city fulfills its duties under the law and lawfully exercises its powers. They act as liaisons between the city and the general public. Their concerns are the conduct of the daily affairs of the city and also the future development of the city. They have authority over the administrative affairs in the city and legislating for the city.

Salary: \$12,115

Term: 4 years



C. Ann Miles, Retired (Whirlpool-Finance)

Current Occupation: Retired
Education: Bluffton University - BA in Accounting and Business Administration
Training & Experience: Lima City School Board - Past President. Currently serving on the Board of 3 Non-Profit organizations.

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the 7th Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

Blight has become a reality in this area.. The deterioration of homes and neighborhoods is a huge problem. Many homes in Lima were built in the 1950's and 1960's. Several constituents have lived in their homes for 40-50 years and wish to remain there. However, they are frustrated with homes around them, now occupied by renters, not being maintained. They reminisce of the neighborhood that was once well kept, but now filled with deteriorating homes. I have visited these owners and heard their concerns. I will continue to fight by keeping the problem of blight a topic of concern to the Mayor, Administration and Council as a whole. My support of the Land Bank and advocating for constituents has resulted in one dilapidated property being placed on the list for teardown. I will work toward seeing more vacant homes fixed up or torn down in this ward. In addition, I will work with Council to seek fair legislation for non-compliant landlords, holding them accountable for their properties

2. List major safety issues you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issue.

With the opiod/heroin epidemic at an all-time high. The drug epidemic has caused an increase in robberies, break-ins, thief, etc. Several break-ins have occurred in the 7th Ward. Items from garages and back yards have been reported stolen by residents. Again, I believe this increase is the result of addicts looking for items to sell to support their habits. An increase in Safety Services personnel

would be helpful. Increased communication to residents at Neighborhood Assoc. meetings, warning residents to be aware, have been done. As a member of the Finance Committee, I will support and advocate for funds to add additional law enforcement and equipment as needed and as the City Budget allows.

The continuing growth of the University of Northwestern Ohio (UNOH) have residents voicing concerns about student housing and car/truck drag racing safety issues. Complaints have been voiced to UNOH personnel, and solutions are on-going with UNOH staff, landlords and code enforcement

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decisions made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

It is a humbling experience to serve the community in which I was raised. I have served in various capacities in the city for 30+ years, 10 years on Lima City School Board, two years as Board President. I love my community and desire to "Make A Difference". As a team player, I am a good listener, at times willing to change my opinion/thoughts (without compromising my character, morals) for the sake of consensus/agreement during committee and Council discussions. My visibility in the community make me very accessible. As I serve throughout the community, I get the awesome opportunity to learn more about our city and interact with people from all walks of life. These interactions make me a more informed Council member. As the face of Council, I vow my best in serving my constituents. I believe my four years on Council has proved I am a person who show respect for others, carry myself in a professional manner and work well with Council members and administration.



Jon Neeper, Funeral Director

Current Occupation: Chiles & Sons Laman Funeral Homes
Education: The Ohio State University; BA, Mortuary Science, Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science
Training & Experience: Member of Westgate Neighborhood Association, St. Gerard Church, Knights of Columbus, Ohio Funeral Directors Association

1. What changes do you expect to occur in the 7th Ward in the next 10 years, and how will your leadership impact that change?

I was born and raised in the 7th Ward and have lived here the past 20 years. I have been a member of the Westgate (and now defunct) Crestwood Neighborhood Associations that whole time. When I moved a few years ago, I didn't even look at other areas of the City. This is my home. The 7th Ward has the most retail-based economy of Lima's wards. Much of this retail has closed or moved over the last several years. The City of Lima has contributed to this decline through a non-responsive building & zoning department, a hyper-vigilant income tax department, and hidden utilities taxes on businesses. As a City Councilor, I will fight for the real creators of jobs in our community, small business owners. I work at a local small business and have seen firsthand the issues that these job creators encounter when they work with the City of Lima that they do not encounter when they work with one of the surrounding townships. The City cannot continue to vilify those who work or create work for others.

2. List major safety issues you see in your ward and describe how you will deal with those issue.

Lima must devote more resources to combating the opiate epidemic in our community. City leaders seem more interested in playing the "blame game" then actually fixing the issue. As Councilor, I will advocate using CDBG dollars to leverage private investment to fund real, proven treatment solutions that tackle the opiate epidemic. Second, any successful enforcement initiative must be focused on the source rather than the users. A portion of the City's large carryover balance should be placed in a proprietary account with one purpose: funding aggressive police targeting of opiate dealers in our community.

One of the safety issues unique to the 7th Ward is the location of schools on major thoroughfares. The City needs to press Lima City Schools to apply for a Safe Routes to School grant through ODOT to make it safer for our children to walk or ride bikes to school at Heritage Elementary as well as ramp up speed enforcement along Jameson Avenue. The first accident will be one too many!

3. Although council members are elected to represent a specific ward, decisions made by the council as a whole impact the entire city. What qualifies you to represent your ward and also function as a member of council and make decisions for the good of the entire city?

I believe that City Councilors are elected to be representatives of the ward and not simply delegates. Constituents elect their Councilor to conduct the background research and make a decision on legislation on their behalf, not to conduct a straw poll every time a controversial piece of legislation comes across our docket. In

(John Neeper's response continued on page 8)

these situations, I will evaluate all sides of the legislation and vote accordingly, but as a general rule I believe that what is best for all wards and all residents of Lima is where my duty lies. In fact, one of my main reasons for running is my belief that Lima needs to stop operating as competing factions and start doing what is best for the long-term growth and prosperity of our entire community. Only then will the 7th Ward recognize its fullest potential.

CITY OF DELPHOS MAYOR

Unexpired Term to end 12/31/19

The city of Delphos is a home rule municipal corporation established under the laws of the State of Ohio.

The City operates under a part-time Mayor/Council and full-time Safety/Service Director form of government.

Salary: \$13,500

Term: 4 years

Joshua Patrick Gillespie

No reply received.

Douglas Mullenhour

No reply received.

John J. Parent, Mayor

Current Occupation: Current mayor of Delphos. I am also a sportswriter for a daily newspaper in Van Wert County.

Education: Bluffton University

1. What is your 5 year vision for economic development in Delphos?

Over the next five years, Delphos will continue to pursue new business while encouraging growth of the established businesses within the city. We will do this by addressing areas of concern within the city's infrastructure and by working with private sector groups to revitalize the downtown area.

2. Crime prevention and the safety of residents is a primary concern for residents, what can city government AND the private sector do to make Delphos a safer place to live?

The number one priority for any city official should always be the health and safety of the residents. These concerns have remained at the front of my mind in every discussion and decision that I have made as the mayor of Delphos, and decisions will continue to be shaped with health and safety in mind. The city administration can support this cause by ensuring that our employees at both the police department and at Fire and Rescue are dedicated and well-trained. Through a couple of the more active private groups within the community, we have already seen the organization of a fire prevention workshop, which is free and open to the public. These types of activities will be vital to both reducing any unfamiliarity between the residents and our emergency responders and to educating our residents on how to keep themselves out of harm's way whenever possible.

3. If the Governor balances the state budget at the expense of municipalities, as has occurred in the past, how will you make up the shortfall?

Should the city face an economic deficit, we would be prepared to trim costs in a variety of areas. That said, the city is in a position financially that we could make these cost-reducing changes in a more gradual manner than we've had to in years past. This would allow the city employees and citizens to have a period of adjustment before the next phase of the financial reorganization would begin.

L.Wayne Suever, Retired Fire Chief City of Delphos

Current Occupation: Owner CW Repair LLC

Education: Graduate Delphos St. John

Training & Experience: Attended National Fire Academy "Strategic Planning", Ohio Fire Academy various courses, former Fire Service instructor, Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Investigator, served on the State of Ohio Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee, served on the Allen and Van Wert E-911 operational committees".

1. What is your 5 year vision for economic development in Delphos?

For Delphos to grow with additional industry and jobs this will take City Council, or the economic development committee to purchase land since the present industrial/commercial sites are occupied. The city and two adjoining townships

need to work closely together to make this happen, we need jobs for young people to remain to live here. A joint venture between the townships and the city would benefit everyone.

2. Crime prevention and the safety of residents is a primary concern for residents, what can city government AND the private sector do to make Delphos a safer place to live?

The staffing of Police Department and Fire/Rescue Division need to be brought back to the levels before staff cuts. Safety of the citizens needs to be a primary issue for the city council. The recent violent type crimes, the surge of opioid drug use and overdose occurrences there is dire need for highly trained safety forces available to handle this growing issue. The citizens need to stay aware of what is happening around them, report any suspected criminal activity and secure their property. Commercial property owners, like individuals must take careful steps to protect their property from criminals.

3. If the Governor balances the state budget at the expense of municipalities, as has occurred in the past, how will you make up the shortfall?

If the governor and state legislature continues to siphon local money off, there is only one option left for local government and that is to increase taxes to meet their financial obligations to continue operation.

BLUFFTON COUNCIL

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 4

The Village Council is comprised of six Council Members elected at large by the citizens of the Village. Each Council Member is elected to a four-year term. The Council serves as the legislative body for the Village. They meet twice a month on the second and fourth Monday.

Shawn Burrell

No reply received.



Jerry Cupples, Retired from American Electric Power

Current Occupation: Field Service Representative for the Magid Glove and Safety Company Education: Associates Degree from the Cleveland Institute of Electronics

Training & Experience: 38 years in Customer Service for American Electric Power. Served 5 terms on Village Council, 3 terms as Council President and employed two years by the Village of Bluffton

Identify 3 major issues in the Village and describe how you will address them.

The biggest issue in the Village is the cost of water. Council enacted a surcharge of \$16.50 in 2016 making Bluffton's water the highest rate in the area. At 400 cubic feet, the monthly cost in Bluffton is \$53.35, \$9.00 higher than Delphos, and more than \$30.00 more than Ada, Ottawa, Findlay and Lima. This surcharge is unfair and unnecessary. The Village receives more than 2 Million per year in income tax, which is more than enough to operate Bluffton conservatively. If elected, I will push to eliminate the surcharge and work within the annual budget to create a fair and equitable water rate. The Village currently has a lack of experience in the administration and on Council, A new Administrator and Fiscal Officer, as well as a Mayor and four Council Members with less that four years experience. I have leadership skills obtained by 38 years in the utility business, 20 years on Council, and two years as an employee. If elected I would share my knowledge to eliminate the duplication of tasks, to clean up unnecessary ordinances, and renew communication with our Industry, the public, and the employees. The former Administrator was fired, and the former fiscal office resigned citing an environment that is "hostile and disrespectful". This is not Bluffton as I know it. I served on a Council that shared values and professional courtesy to the public and each other. If elected, I will return the Village to where the rate payers, tax payers and residents matter.



Michael Kingsley, Attorney

Current Occupation: Attorney

Education: Bluffton College - BS, 1971 Loyola University of Chicago Law School - JD, 1984

Training & Experience: 33 Years practicing attorney; Board membership on many non-profits; mediation training and teaching; college adjunct teaching

Identify 3 major issues in the Village and describe how you will address them.

1.Village employees face an uncertain work environment. Early in the year

(Michael Kingsley's response continued on page 9)

Bluffton's very competent Village Administrator was fired without warning and without reason. Recently, Bluffton's very competent fiscal officer resigned, citing questionable requests by the Mayor and raising concerns about possible ethics violations. Further, the village pay ordinance has been scrapped. If elected, I would work with council members and the mayor to promote a regular system of employee evaluations with council participation. Employees deserve to have predictable wage steps and feedback on how they are doing. We must work hard to build team consciousness among all village employees. This won't be achieved by intimidation but by encouragement and better communication.

2. The water surcharge enacted two years ago brings more money into the water fund; but the rate structure with the added surcharge creates an unfair water charge. Average users are paying the village far in excess of the cost of producing the water. Water rates for most users should more closely resemble the actual cost of the water. We need to roll back the surcharge and adjust the rates. We will still need to do a certain amount of subsidizing from the general fund in order to keep costs from being too exorbitant for large (industrial) users who are so vital to our village economic health.

3. Even small steps could greatly improve the Village of Bluffton web presence. Let's get it up to date and up to snuff.

Ralph Miller

No reply received.

Tony Pinks, Safety Specialist



Current Occupation: SumiRiko Ohio, Inc. Manufacturing

Identify 3 major issues in the Village and describe how you will address them.

Issue 1: Cost of the water and sewage utilities I intend on searching for the answer to why our utility rates are so high. The job of maintaining and cost efficiency for local residence and area businesses should be the duties of the village council and the mayor of this village. The cost of the water in the Village of Bluffton is so much higher than all of the surrounding area Ada, Findlay, & Lima just to name a few. My brother has a house he is raising a family in and is a resident of Ada, and pays much less than a family in the Village of Bluffton. I feel we are over charged in the village and I have heard it from other residents that they feel the same way.

Issue 2: Community beautification We as a community are very proud of who we are and what we do as residents in the Village of Bluffton. We share the same ideas of living in a clean community. There's two types of trash in our community. One type is the trash along the roads and highway access. As my wife and I travel to other parts of the United States we often recognize how beautiful their access ramps are and the beautiful scenery you see from the highway at area businesses and parks among other things to look at. We say to ourselves this would look good at the exit I-75 #140 or #142 coming home to our wonderful community. The exits to the interstate are not the only problem, we have litter along many of the roads and the creek beds. These litter problems would be much worse if it weren't for a local resident.

Benjamin Stahl, Software Engineer



Current Occupation: Developing internal yield analysis applications for Global Foundries, a semiconductor chip manufacturer.

Education: Pandora-Gilboa High School (2006); The Ohio State University, BS in Computer Information Science (2011)

Identify 3 major issues in the Village and describe how you will address them.

1) The Village isn't taking advantage of digital storage and communication. I would push that Bluffton goes back to posting council minutes on the village website, including all legislation. I don't see how we can expect residents to obey the ordinances if they can't find out what they are. Having the legislation online and keyword-searchable helps everyone--resident and council member alike--be more informed about what laws are already in effect and what needs to be added.

2) The Village isn't treating people with respect. Whether it's firing employees without notice or telling residents to keep their mouths shut, there has been a lack of civility and understanding coming out of Town Hall. I'm not naive enough to think I can change that alone but I will try my hardest to help effect that change. No one should hesitate to approach their elected official for fear of ridicule or retribution and, if elected, I promise to remember that I was chosen to serve.

3) The Village isn't investing in the future. Bluffton's history is full of examples

of being on the leading edge of technology and social reform; Bluffton was an early adopter of both the electric streetlight and the concept of Fair Trade businesses. In that spirit, I want to investigate the feasibility of installing solar panels around the village airport to help mitigate our monthly electric cost and our carbon footprint.

David R. Steiner

No reply received.

Phil Talavinia

No reply received.

Roger L. Warren

No reply received.

Deborah Weihrauch

No reply received.

ELIDA COUNCIL

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 4

It is the duty of council to ensure the village fulfills its duties under the law and lawfully exercises its powers. They should act as liaisons between the village and the general public. They are to protect the welfare of the village and direct enforcement of the village ordinances.

Marv Adams, Retired Insurance Agency Owner



Current Occupation: Retired Insurance Agency owner and former Village Councilman over nine years.

Education: 1958-1960 was Fourth Class to enter New United States Air Force Academy, Attended University of Evansville and Toledo University.

Training & Experience: Studied Numerous Insurance Industry Courses, Real Estate Licensing, Owned Multiple Line Insurance Agency for 34 years, then sold and retired.

What do you believe is the single most important issue facing the village of Elida and how would you address it?

Increasing Village Revenue to offset increasing overhead of Elida's Village Expenses in excess of income. To work hard with an economic development to bring new businesses to our village. Already contacted businesses to build on vacant land and within our Village and adjacent to Elida. Work to change Zoning Code to require any new business or residence adjoining us to annex once they apply to tap into our water. We have a least four commercial sites available and vacant land that could be developed on Greenlawn, Elida Road, 53 acres and Land North of High School. This has worked in other villages.

Rhonda McCoy

No reply received.

Darryl J. Nichols, Heat Treat Technician

Current Occupation: Dana Corporation

Education: Lima Senior High School - Diploma

Training & Experience: Mayor, Village of Elida - 1996 - 1997; Councilman, Village of Elida - 1992 - 1996

What do you believe is the single most important issue facing the village of Elida and how would you address it?

The most important issue facing the Village of Elida is utilizing the taxpayer's dollars in a fiscally responsible manner. In the ever changing political environment, often times it is the small entity, such as the Village, that is left responsible to figure out how to finance unfunded mandates and ensure services for their constituents.

The Village implemented a 3/4% income tax increase over concerns with the

(Darryl J. Nichol's response continued on page 10)

(Darryl J. Nichol's response continued from page 9)

general fund. A 3/4% increase is the maximum increase that can be implemented without voter approval. Another increase the constituents absorbed was an annual sewer fee increase for a three year period. Again, the voters did not have this issue brought forth to them and instead had it implemented upon them.

I understand that these are tough decisions to be made. We should work with members of the public to explore options, weigh opportunities, and make decisions while keeping the constituents in mind and taking steps to demonstrate we are committed to sound fiscal decisions.



Claude R. Paxton, Postal Clerk

Current Occupation: Retired
Education: Graduate of Elida High School Attended Ball State University, Northwestern Business College, Ohio State University
Training & Experience: Finance Section of the Lima Post Office Certified Income Tax Professional

What do you believe is the single most important issue facing the village of Elida and how would you address it?

The most important issue for the Village of Elida is the financial stability of the village. Council was recently informed "that our expenses are increasing much faster than our revenue".

There are four ways to address this issue. First, I have suggested that we review the budget to obtain an understanding of the perceived disparity in the growth of income vs. expenses. Second, we need to promote economic development. I have suggested that the village contact the Allen Economic Development Group for assistance in this area. Third, adopt policies that promote annexation. (I should note that I am skeptical of policies that mandate annexation, especially where current customers are concerned.) Fourth, raise income taxes. Any such raise should be submitted to the electorate for approval.

I believe a village should have an understanding of its financial needs before trying to solve any perceived problems. The participation of the electorate is essential in obtaining a proper solution.

Michael Sebenoler, Retired Carpentry Instructor at Apollo Career Center

Current Occupation: Carpenter
Education: Elida HS graduate Under graduate University of Toledo

What do you believe is the single most important issue facing the village of Elida and how would you address it?

I feel the most important issue facing the Village of Elida is the rising cost associated with running the village. For example, EPA mandates for the water and sewer services we provide as well as the rising cost of the water we buy from the city of Lima and rising costs of repairing aging infrastructure to name a few. I firmly believe that the Village should live within it means as we as citizens do. To address the rising costs I believe we should examine ways to "grow the village" to expand its tax base, looking at possible tax incentives to businesses to attract them to the village.

AMERICAN TOWNSHIP FISCAL OFFICER

Unexpired term to end 03/31/24

The Fiscal Officer's duties are to record an accurate record of township meetings and keep records of the fiscal accounts of the township.

Brady M. Overholt, Fiscal Officer (American Township)

Current Occupation: Math Teacher- Elida Local Schools
Education: Bachelors of Education at BGSU Masters in Education at OSU



AMERICAN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 2

Trustees are the legislative authority of the township. They also fulfill executive responsibilities for road maintenance, cemetery management, police and fire protection, EMS services, solid waste disposal and zoning in the township.



Paul Basinger, Retired Lieutenant Allen County Sheriffs Office

Current Occupation: American Township Trustee serving since elected in 2002, School Resource Officer Elida High School, Independent Business Owner - Basinger Process Service LLC

Education: Bath High School - Multiple Supervisory and Leadership Classes and Seminars. Graduate of Allen/ Lima Leadership, Continuing Education Classes by Ohio Police Officer Training Academy, Continuing Education Classes by Ohio Township Trustees Association, and I am a Graduate of Ohio Township Leadership Academy

Training & Experience: Certificates of Completion for : 1. Conducting Effective Meetings 2. Communicating and working with the Media 3. Communicating and working with Citizens 4. Building Sustainable Communities 5. Team Building 6. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution 7. Leadership Skills and Styles 8. Effective Decision - Making 9. Technology in Government



Lynn D. Mohler, Adjunct Professor at Sinclair Community College

Education: Master Degree Wright State University
Training & Experience: Eight years American Township Trustee

BATH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 2

Trustees are the legislative authority of the township. They also fulfill executive responsibilities for road maintenance, cemetery management, police and fire protection, EMS services, solid waste disposal and zoning in the township.



Brad Baxter, Environmental Health and Safety Professional

Current Occupation: Director of Safety Services Sidney Electric Company

Education: Graduate of Bath High School, Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Wilmington College, Completed a 5 year apprenticeship through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 32

Training & Experience: Graduate of the Allen Lima Leadership program, 25 years experience in the construction industry, 20 years providing OSHA outreach instruction for construction industry, 10 years promoting apprenticeship programs available in our community.

What is the single most important issue facing your township and how would you address it?

Like many townships, Bath Township faces the dilemma of increased demands for services, rising fixed costs and infrastructure improvements. The single most important issue facing Bath Township is strong fiscal policy. Fiscal policy affects stability, growth, and income distribution. Citizens expect their government to ensure value-for-money spending, and transparent and accountable management of public resources.

Together with all stakeholders, I will evaluate all processes in all departments regarding their methods, efficiency, and results; and make changes accordingly. I will work collaboratively with residents and leaders to preserve our rural heritage; while managing growth, planning development, ensuring consistent zoning, and providing spaces that constituents want. With the township team and nearby municipalities, I will provide quality, efficient and cost-effective services to individuals and organizations. As a Bath Township Trustee, I will ensure the township plays a key role in regional initiatives.



Roy A. Hollenbacher, Retired Lima Firefighter

Current Occupation: Bath Township Trustee

Education: 1968 Graduate Bath High School - Honorable Discharge US Army 1971

Training & Experience: Current Bath Township Trustee; Secretary/Treasurer Allen County Township Association; Board Member of the Ohio Township Association; Board member of

the Developmental Controls Committee, Administrative Affairs Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission; President of the Allen County Health Department District Advisory Council

What is the single most important issue facing your township and how would you address it?

Bath Township is a great place to live, work and raise our families. We have great neighborhoods, educational facilities and very nice camping and recreational areas. Bath Township is also fortunate to be the home to many of Allen County's largest employers that provide good employment for many Bath residents. Important issues present themselves everyday in every Township, but a single most important issue to me has always been and continues to be, maintaining all of these factors for the benefit of Bath Township residents. I first ran for office to support quality of life issues and I still work hard for that cause. Zoning enforcement and property maintenance is an ongoing concern. Providing good quality fire and paramedic service is something I am proud that Bath Township now has on a full time basis. Being a Bath Township Trustee requires more leadership than, "as time permits". I retired from the Lima Fire Department and have committed my time and energy to work for you and Bath Township. I am accessible, and I work daily to fulfill the duties as your Trustee. Every voter may have their own view as to what the important issues are in our Township. As your Trustee, my most important issue is having the time, and committing the time to serve Bath Township and its residents. My home phone number is 419-222-2909, my cell number is 419-230-0449 and I welcome email communications at rhollenbacher@woh.rr.com.

Michael D. Meeks

No reply received.

Kevin Schmiedebusch, Territory Sales Manager, Murphy Tractor and Equipment Company, Inc.

Current Occupation: I am a Territory Sales Manager for Murphy Tractor and Equipment Company, Inc. located at 3550 St John's Road Lima, Ohio. We are a John Deere Construction and Forestry Equipment Dealer. I have been in this business for over 25 years.

Education: I am a Bath High School Graduate Class of 1978. Attended Lima Technical College 1979 thru 1983 Business Administration and Marketing. I studied at night as I worked and payed for my education.

Training & Experience: I have been involved in many organizations dealing with people and agencies. John Deere University, Certified Sales Manager, Dimensions of Professional Selling thru Carew International, National Management Association Management Training, Dealing with Government and Business for over 25 years, Past student Football Coach at Bath School, Involved in the Ohio Contractors Association as past Chairperson, Served on State Education and Legislative Board at the State level, Apollo Career Center Advisory Board Member CET Technology, Current Member of Bath Township Zoning Board of Appeals, Member of The Ohio Township Association, Member of The Allen County Township Association, Various Church Committees and Boards, Currently serve as The Lay Leader of the Huggy Bear Campground Sunday Morning Gospel Hour.

What is the single most important issue facing your township and how would you address it?

The single most important thing facing our township is our budget and funding. My vision to aid this is to be more business friendly. We need to treat businesses how we would want to be treated. We need to grow our community into the future. We need to work with State, County, and Local government as well as our Businesses and other Local agencies for Business growth in Bath Township. This will be a win for all of us (More jobs, More business) which will help our schools, give us better roads, and further enhance our safety services and infrastructure.

Robert E. Sielschott, CPA

Current Occupation: Founding partner and president of Sielschott, Walsh, Keifer and Regula, CPAs

Education: BA in Accounting and Business Adm. Bluffton College 1981

Training & Experience: 34 years as a self employed CPA, employer, and practicing CPA

What is the single most important issue facing your township and how would you address it?

The Bath Trusteeship needs to end current conflicts with other local and state governments, major Bath employers, economic development entities, local residents, and other municipalities. The Trustee Board needs to return focus to its providing of essential services, and working with other state agencies, local small businesses, large employers, and other local and state governments to expand employment opportunities and growth for our township residents and their families. I believe strongly that there is no greater good that a local government can do than to pursue economic opportunity and "bread winner" jobs for my neighbors and their children. Such a focus increases funding for local services and schools through economic growth, and increases the quality of life for Bath residents. This is what I have tried to do in my life and professional career, and it is what I would try to do as a Bath Township Trustee.

PERRY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Term Commences 01/01/18 (Choose 2)

Trustees are the legislative authority of the township. They also fulfill executive responsibilities for road maintenance, cemetery management, police and fire protection, EMS services, solid waste disposal and zoning in the township.

Norman B. Capps

No reply received.

Gregory J. Kessen

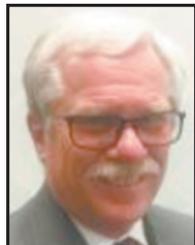
No reply received.



SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 2

Trustees are the legislative authority of the township. They also fulfill executive responsibilities for road maintenance, cemetery management, police and fire protection, EMS services, solid waste disposal and zoning in the township.



Dave Belton, Shawnee Township Trustee

Current Occupation: - Shawnee Township Trustee - Pre-need Specialist Chamberlain-Huckriede Funeral Home Lima, OH

Education: - Graduate Shawnee High School - Lima Technical College/Rhodes State College Associate of Applied Science EMS

Training & Experience: - Resident of Shawnee Township for 54 years - 28 1/2 years Firefighter/Medic Shawnee Township Fire Department - Retired as Fire Chief of Shawnee Township Fire Department - National Association of Township Trustees Association graduate of Leadership Academy -Over 45 years of Public Service Shawnee Township Trustee 2 Consecutive Terms - Rhodes State EMS Advisory Board Member since 2010 - Shawnee Optimist Club Active Member - 52 year member of Shawnee United Methodist Church - Shawnee United Methodist Church Lay Pastor / Team Leader for Haiti Mission Trips - Member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee - Member of Task Force LIMA to preserve employment at Joint System Manufacturing Center (Tank Plant) - Retired Ohio EMS Instructor 36 years - Former President of Northwest Ohio Fire Chiefs Association

What major issues face your township and how will you address them?

1. Economic Development: The Trustees must engage in the effort to support our current industries and residents in their investment to the community. Since I have been a trustee, there has been over \$900 million dollars of investment expansion and update to our current industrial base. I have worked with Task Force LIMA in securing the continued growth of the Joint Manufacturing System Center by securing contracts for the Stryker vehicles, update to the Abrams Tanks and new vehicles to be produced. We are amidst the greatest residential building increase since the 1980's. Working with Allen Economic Development Group, County Commissioners, and other agencies helps provide security to the future of Shawnee Township.

2. Road, Bridges and Drainage: With the reduction of local government funds by the State of Ohio, it has been difficult for Townships to keep up with the deterioration of travel ways. As a current Trustee I am constantly looking for funding sources and alternative repair methods to provide the community with safe passage. The heavy rains plaguing the Township this past spring and summer has raised awareness that must be addressed in the future.

3. Providing the highest level of Public Safety Services: Our departments have been locally and national recognized for the services they provide. Again the loss of local government funds have taken its toll. I work closely with our Fire Chief and Police Chief to find funding for manning, equipment and training.

Russell E. Holly, Retired teacher, coach, township trustee and motorcycle safety instructor

Current Occupation: Township trustee, coach and motorcycle safety instructor

Education: B.S. in Science, Morehead State University, various graduate studies post college, graduated high school Cridersville Local schools

Training & Experience: 20 years as Shawnee Township trustee, 8 years on village council

What major issues face your township and how will you address them?

Throughout the state, townships and other entities are losing tax dollars and funds because of the loss of local government funds and tangible personal property tax. As a township trustee, it is our job to spend local levied monies wisely and to look at any avenue, be it grants, shared services or other ways internally to use our staff and resources in a wise manner. I will personally continue my effort to engage the residents and give them help in directing their needs and questions to resolve any issues they may have related to what the township's responsibility is, and where to go find the solution for their particular problem.

Clark A. Spieles, Small Business owner, Spieles Nurseries

Current Occupation: Owner of Spieles nurseries Landscape design/build Co.

Education: 1985 Graduate of Shawnee High School 1990 Graduate of The Ohio State University with a double major in Landscape Design and Nursery Management

Training & Experience: Owner of Spieles nurseries since 1990. Ohio certified in Landscaping, Garden Center and Nursery Grower. Owner of Blooms Garden Center. Licensed real estate agent at Oakridge Realty & Auction Co. Married for 24 years and have 3 great kids.

What major issues face your township and how will you address them?

The major issues that affect Shawnee Township residents is the day to day business of running the township. Also, making common sense decisions that will help the township to continue to grow. We have a lot of great people running our community and I would like to be a part in helping it run smoothly.

ALLEN COUNTY ESC MEMBER

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 3

The Educational Service Center (ESC) consists of 5 members elected from the county and are the governing body of the educational service center. ESC Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the service center based upon state laws and community values. Their most important function is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them responsible for providing services to their member school districts.

James D. Cooper, Retired School Administrator

Current Occupation: Retired

Education: B.S. Ohio State University, M.S. Ohio State University, M.S. University of Dayton

Training & Experience: 40 Years in Education-teaching and school administration

How can the services you provide to the local school districts be maintained or improved if funding from the state is decreased?

The services of the Allen County Educational Services Center provided to the local schools are extremely important. There is an economy of scale to the schools working together through the ESC. When there is excess cost, the cost is billed back to the local schools. This allows for each school to pay for only the services the school needs, and the ESC hires the personnel to meet the needs of the school. This system allows the local schools to have access to services that the school could not afford individually. Even with the state cut backs, the ESC will be able to maintain its level of service.

Mike Estes, Education

Current Occupation: Superintendent, Crestview Local Schools

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education with majors in History and Political Science from Ohio Northern University Master of Science in Education from the University of Dayton

Training & Experience: 10 years as a teacher, coach, advisor, 2 years as an assistant high school principal, 14 years as a middle school principal, and 16 years as a superintendent.

How can the services you provide to the local school districts be maintained or improved if funding from the state is decreased?

A board of education has a limited range of responsibilities. It must employ a superintendent. It must employ a treasurer. It sets policy for the district it serves. Beyond that scope, board members are limited to an advisory role.

If elected, I will use my forty-two years of experience in public education to make responsible decisions. I was a principal for sixteen years and a superintendent for sixteen years. I have worked with districts through good financial times and times when finances were challenging. If my opinion is sought, I would be willing to share it.



David E. Mayer Vocational teacher and administrator, Farmer

Current Occupation: Retired
Education: B.S. Ohio State U. M.S. Ohio State U.
Training & Experience: 5 yrs. Supervision and Q.C. manager at I & K Dist., Delphos 37 yrs.- vocational teacher, admin. Farmer

How can the services you provide to the local school districts be maintained or improved if funding from the state is decreased?

After serving as a vocational teacher and administrator for almost 37 years, I have been deeply involved with the directions from Columbus to "do more with less". Most school systems in Ohio have faced similar challenges. County educational service centers are "schools of choice". We must provide services for students. Having served on the Allen County ESC board for several years, we have dealt with major cuts in state funding. We have diligently attempted to maintain services to our local school by increasing our operational efficiency and objectively evaluation all components of our school system. We have combined services whenever possible with similar entities, saving tax dollars. Reducing staff and educational supplies must always be the last resort as these directly impact our children. As an teacher and as an administrator my goal has always to "do what is best for kids"..... and I continue that challenge as an ESC board member.

Jo A. McConnell, Teacher

Current Occupation: Family Consumer Science Teacher
Education: B.S. The Ohio State University
Training & Experience: I have served on the ESC board for 10 years and have a working knowledge of the role of the ESC.

How can the services you provide to the local school districts be maintained or improved if funding from the state is decreased?

Funding has been a challenge for the Allen County ESC for several years. Regardless of the funding given, our Allen County schools continue to need the services the ESC provides for them. To meet this imbalance, the ESC must seek ways for services to be streamlined. This past year the Allen County ESC shared superintendent services with the Western Buckeye ESC along with redistributing other positions. I feel the ESC will need to continue to look for other innovative opportunities such as this that will afford it to provide top quality services at the most economical price. In addition, I also believe the ESC must continue to educate our legislature about the shared services we already provide in order to keep the funding we do receive. While the model of the ESC already provides the best method for sharing services between schools, it will take continued education of the both the public and the legislature to maintain the function of the ESC which is providing high caliber, affordable services to the local districts of Allen County.



Van F. Spragg, Medical Sales

Education: Bachelors Degree - Miami University, Masters Degree - BGSU

What is the single most important issue facing your school district and how would you address it?

Bath Local School District provides excellent educational opportunities for its residents. However, when compared to other schools in Allen County, Bath falls in the middle of the pack. I know the majority of the residents don't consider ourselves to be middle of the pack people. While the state is constantly changing what is measured and how it is measured, the trend over the last 3 to 4 years has shifted negatively for Bath in some of the student achievement areas. This is an area I would focus on as a school board member as I believe this is the primary purpose of public education. Here are some things I would propose and support as a school board member to improve student achievement: * I would work with the superintendent to ensure appropriate resources are available to drive student achievement. * Suggest and implement student study table guidelines for those participating in extracurricular activities. These would set minimum classroom performance expectations to be monitored by coach/adviser. Students not meeting these minimum expectations would be required to attend a study table staffed by community volunteers in the evening until expectations are met. * Develop/Identify opportunities to help parents take more active roles in their child's/children's education. * Establish a culture within the district that expects results. Expectations often drive results more than perceived ability. Help me make Bath Local Schools the best in Allen County!

ELIDA SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 3

School Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the school system based upon state laws and community values. Their most important function is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them responsible for managing the school in accordance with the school board's policies.

Barry Barnt, Teacher

Current Occupation: 4th Grade Teacher Lima City Schools
Education: The University of Dayton Master of Science in Education and Allied Professions The Ohio State University Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
Training & Experience: Teacher 1992-Present Lima City Schools, Lima, Ohio Adjunct Instructor 2006-Present University of Northwestern Ohio-Lima, Ohio

Jason M. Bowers

No reply received.

Jeff Christoff, Professor

Current Occupation: Professor, College of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University
Education: Bachelor's of Science in Pharmacy (1988, Duquesne University), Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy (1993, The Ohio State University)
Training & Experience: 4 years, Board of Education, Elida Local Schools (Elida, OH), 20 years, College of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University (Ada, OH), 5 years, College of Pharmacy, Midwestern University (Downers Grove, IL)

BATH SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 2

School Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the school system based upon state laws and community values. Their most important function is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them responsible for managing the school in accordance with the school board's policies.

Bob Birkemeier

No reply received.

Rob McPheron

No reply received.

**ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 7**

LIMA CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 2

School Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the school system based upon state laws and community values. Their most important function is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them responsible for managing the school in accordance with the school board's policies.



Alicia D. Anderson, Administrative Assistant

Current Occupation: Administrative Assistant at Joint Systems Manufacturing Center.

Education: Masters in Business Administration w/Human Resources

Ella L. Johnson, Educational Aide

Current Occupation: Educational Aide

Education: Associate Degree OSU-Lima, Ohio

Training & Experience: 18 years working in schools

LIMA CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Unexpired Term to end 12/31/19

School Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the school system based upon state laws and community values. Their most important function is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them responsible for managing the school in accordance with the school board's policies.

Sandra J. Monfort, Reentry Coordinator

Current Occupation: Reentry Coordinator of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties, for Coleman Professionals

Education: Masters in Social Agency Counseling, from the University of Dayton Bachelors Education and Sociology Major from Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky

Training & Experience: Licensed Social Worker Trainer of Moral Reconation Therapy Trainer of Thinking For a Change 40+ years working in Criminal Justice Previous Board for the Lima Cty Schools

PERRY SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 2

School Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the school system based upon state laws and community values. Their most important function is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them responsible for managing the school in accordance with the school board's policies.



Yvonne Marrs, Supply Planner, PepsiCo

Current Occupation: Supply Planner, PepsiCo

Education: Associate Degree in Accounting

Training & Experience: Previously served on the Perry BOE from 2012-2015. Currently, serving on the Apollo BOE as Perry's representative since 2014.

What is the single most important issue facing your school district and how would you address it?

The single most important issue currently facing our school district is the ability to adequately prepare our students for the 21st century workforce due to lack of funding and available technology. In the past couple years, our district has increased the access to devices by initiating a 1:1 Chromebook initiative for grades 3-12, and

the addition of smart projectors within the new elementary building. To address this issue, there has to be a unified front between the BOE and the administration, Ms. VanGorder, Ms. Schooler, and Mr. Weingart. Trusting that the administration and BOE are keeping the students at forefront of all decisions, this issue can be addressed by supporting any initiatives the administration would introduce that would further help develop our students in all grades with 21st century skills. Supporting them may include approving funding for additional devices, encouraging professional development for district staff, and assisting with the location of funds outside the district that directly support this issue.

Tammy Lehman McDonnell

No reply received.

Rusty Rush

No reply received.

Marc Sidener

No reply received.

SHAWNEE SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/18 - Vote for no more than 3

School Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the school system based upon state laws and community values. Their most important function is to employ a superintendent and treasurer and hold them responsible for managing the school in accordance with the school board's policies.

Clay Balyeat

No reply received.

Kenny Gross

No reply received.

Jerome J. O'Neal, President of Plus Management, Inc. Business and Health Operations

Education: Shawnee High School BA/BS Urbana University MBA Ashland University

Training & Experience: Supportive and Involved in the Shawnee School Systems for over 40 years

What is the single most important issue facing your school district and how would you address it?

Answering this question at this time is from an "outside" point of view. I have spent the last month reading over Shawnee Board data, as well as, the Treasure and Superintendent reports going back as long as 3 years ago but until you sit down with the Administration and Staff issues might change from what I think currently. The standard answer to this question is 'lack of school funding to face a growing demand on outcomes', but this has been an issue since I first ran for the School Board many years ago and it will be the same issue when the next group of leaders step in to direct the School. There will not be a magic pill that will give schools all the funding that they would like. The State budget saw it's largest increase ever in school funding and schools across the State are still heading toward fiscal

crisis. Shawnee is no exception. Shawnee has been in deficit spending now for several years and is expected to remain this way under current operations for several more years. This combine with an aging buildings and grounds infrastructure makes for a perfect storm. Shawnee needs a strategic plan that will address this 'storm' for the next 3 yrs. and it needs to happen immediately. This will involve the Shawnee Community and School leadership sit down and see how best to ensure the storm will not effect the education of the students but at the same time address the problem. It wont be easy and some solutions will be both creative and painful.

ISSUE 1

Rights for Crime Victims

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Proposed by Initiative Petition To repeal and replace the existing language in Section 10a of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would expand the rights of victims under the current Section 10a and require that the rights of victims be protected as vigorously as the rights of the accused. More specifically, for the purpose of ensuring due process, respect, fairness, and justice for crime victims and their families in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, the amendment would provide victims with:

- the right to privacy and to be treated with respect, fairness, and dignity;
- the right to information about the rights and services available to crime victims;
- the right to notification in a timely manner of all proceedings in the case;
- the right to be present and heard at all court proceedings, including the right to petition the court to protect the victim's rights;
- the right to a prompt conclusion of the case;
- to refuse discovery requests made by the accused, except as authorized by Article I, Section 10 of the Ohio constitution;
- the right to reasonable protection from the accused;
- the right to notice of the release or escape of the accused; and
- the right to restitution.

The proposed amendment would not establish a cause of action for damages or compensation against the state or any political subdivision.

If approved, the amendment will be effective 90 days after the election.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

YES or NO

League Explanation of Issue 1:

Crime Victims' Bill of Rights

Issue 1 (Marsy's Law) will alter the state constitution to significantly expand the rights of victims in Ohio. The law would ensure that crime victims have a meaningful role throughout criminal and juvenile justice systems. It would provide crime victims with specific constitutional rights, including the right to be treated with fairness and respect for the victim's safety, dignity, and privacy; to be notified about and present at proceed-

ings; to be heard at proceedings involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole of the accused; to a prompt conclusion of the case; to reasonable protection from the accused; to be notified about release or escape of the accused; to refuse an interview or deposition at the request of the accused; and to receive restitution from the individual who committed the criminal offense.

Marsy's Law is named after Marsy Nicholas, a California college student who was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. One week after her death, her mother and brother Henry walked into a grocery store where they saw the accused murderer. The family had no idea that he had been released on bail. Dr. Henry T. Nicholas, brother of Marsy, is the key backer and proponent of Marsy's Law. Marsy's Law initiatives have been passed in California, Illinois, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (see <https://marsyslaw.us/about-marsys-law/marsysstory/>).

There is already language addressing rights of crime victims in the Ohio constitution which voters passed in 1994. However, Marsy's Law would replace it with language that, as described above, would expand the existing rights of victims and would establish new rights for victims.

Pros:

1. This proposed law will increase the legal rights and privileges of victims. Marsy's Law would replace the 1994 Ohio Victims' Rights Amendment, which victims' rights advocates said has been unenforceable.

The proposed law would ensure that victims are informed when the accused offender is released from custody. It will inform crime victims of their rights.

Cons:

1. The amendment would override state law, eliminating judges' abilities to weigh the rights of victims and defendants.

2. Victims are already protected by 1994 Ohio Victims' Rights Amendment in the constitution.

3. The amendment would allow crime victims to directly file an appeal, overstepping the decisions of prosecutors.

Victims could refuse to be interviewed or to turn over pertinent evidence or testimony.

PROPOSERS: Marsy's Law for Ohio is leading the campaign in support of the initiative.

OPPOSERS: As of our publication deadline, no organized opposition has formed, however representatives from the legal profession have voiced concerns and may formalize their opposition. This Vote411 summary will be updated if and when an opposition campaign is announced.

ISSUE 2

To require state agencies to not pay more for prescription drugs than the federal Department of Veterans Affairs and require state payment of attorney fees and expenses to specific individuals for defense of the law

Proposed Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

To enact Chapter 194 of the Ohio Revised Code

A majority yes vote is necessary for the law to pass.

To enact Chapter 194 of the Ohio Revised Code, which would:

- Require the State of Ohio, including its state departments, agencies and entities, to not pay more for prescription drugs than the price paid by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Establish that the individual petitioners responsible for proposing the law have a direct and personal stake in defending the law; require the State to pay petitioners' reasonable attorney fees and other expenses; require the petitioners to pay \$10,000 to the State if the law is held by a court to be unenforceable and limit petitioners' personal liability to that amount; and require the Attorney General to defend the law if challenged in court.

SHALL THE PROPOSED LAW BE ADOPTED?

YES or NO

Issue 2: The Ohio Drug Price Relief Act

Will appear on the ballot as "STATE ISSUE 2: To require state agencies to not pay more for prescription drugs than the federal Department of Veterans Affairs and require state payment of attorney fees and expenses to specific individuals for defense of the law" Prohibits the state from buying any prescription drug from a drug manufacturer for a price over the lowest price paid for the drug by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

A YES vote means approval of the Act.

A NO vote means disapproval of the Act.

If approved, the proposed Act will take effect immediately after Election Day.

League Explanation of Issue 2:

The Ohio Drug Price Relief Act

Issue 2 would limit the amount the state and state agencies could pay for prescription drugs. This Act is designed to restrict the amount that any state agency could pay for

drugs, tying it to the price paid by the VA. The VA negotiates drug prices with companies and typically pays 20 to 24 percent less than other agencies for prescription drugs. Specifically, it would forbid state agencies to enter into any purchasing agreement with drug manufacturers unless the net cost of the drug is the same or less than that paid by the VA. State agencies would not be allowed to pay more than the VA pays for a particular medication. These state agencies include, but are not limited to, the Ohio Department of Aging, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Insurance, the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (the program for people with low incomes or disabilities).

The bill will only impact those who receive drugs paid for by the State, not those with any other type of coverage. If adopted, the proposed statute would affect only those associated with the above mentioned state agencies - roughly 4 million Ohioans. The Act would not apply to those who use private insurance, Medicare, or other non-state-provided coverage - approximately 7 million Ohioans.

Pros:

1. Drug costs are the main driver of rising health care cost. There is an urgent need to control costs while maintaining access to needed medications.

2. Too many Ohioans must choose between the basic necessities of life and paying for their medications.

3. There is an indirect benefit to taxpayers as the state would save an estimated \$536 million per year on drugs. This could free up some substantial money that the state could use for other programs.

Cons:

1. The Act does not define some important terms, such as "drug," "state," "ultimate payer," and "net cost."

2. The Act does not address pricing of drugs that are not purchased by the VA and create costly, complex purchasing arrangements.

3. Pharmaceutical companies might respond to passage of the Act by a) negating existing discounts and rebates, b) raising prescription prices charged to non-covered entities and individuals, and/or c) raising prices charged to the VA.

PROPOSERS: Yes on Issue 2, also known as Ohio Taxpayers for Lower Drug Prices, is leading the campaign in support of the initiative.

OPPOSERS: No on Issue 2, also known as Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, is leading the campaign in opposition to the initiative

Further Information:

A similar proposition (Proposition 61) appeared on the California ballot in 2016. It was defeated. More information on California Proposition 61.

Analysis from Vorys Healthcare Advisors commissioned by Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Issue, the campaign opposing the proposal.

2017 GENERAL ELECTIONS ISSUES

Proposed Sales and Use Tax
Allen County Regional Transit Authority
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

Shall a sales and use tax be levied for all transit purposes of the Allen County Regional Transit Authority (ACRTA) at a rate not exceeding 0.25% for a period of 10 years?

Proposed (Ordinance/Resolution)
Electric Aggregation
City of Lima
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

Shall the City of Lima have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the City of Lima, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

Perry Township
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Perry Township for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.10 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2018, first due in calendar year 2019.



Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal)
Shawnee Local School District
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Shawnee Local District for the purpose of constructing, remodeling, repairing, and equipping of existing school buildings, constructing and equipping of new fireproof school buildings or facilities for future expansion, the construction of school administrations facilities, acquisition of site or sites, improvement of present and future sites and purchase of school buses at a rate not exceeding 2.45 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.245 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2018, first due in calendar year 2019.

Special Election by Petition
Local Option Election for Particular Business Location
Bluffton C
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

Shall the sale of spirituous liquor be permitted by Blue Jay Properties LLC, an applicant for a D3 liquor permit, who is engaged in the business of food service at 562 N. Main St. in this precinct?

Special Election by Petition
Local Option Election for Particular Business Location
Bluffton C
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by Blue Jay Properties LLC, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit, who is engaged in the business of food service at 562 N. Main St, in this precinct?

The League of Women Voters of the Lima Area gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and organizations whose generous contributions make it possible for us to provide copies of this Voter Guide and other LWV educational efforts.

David Adams
David and Linda Berger
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The League of Women Voters was established in 1920 to provide nonpartisan voter information. Any citizen, male or female, can become a member of the League. To learn more about membership visit our website at www.lwvlima.org.

In order to continue providing this non-partisan Voter Guide to the area, the League of Women Voters of the Lima Area is seeking individual and corporate underwriting for future Voter Guides.

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