



Voter Information Guide

General Election

November 2, 2021

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 2, 2021 • Polls Open 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.

General Election Day

November 2, 2021

CITY OF LIMA MAYOR Term Commences 12/01/2021

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

Term: 4 year

Salary: \$125,811.



Elizabeth Hardesty

Current Occupation: Head of Business Development, Geologist Chemostrat Inc.

Education: Lima Senior High 1999 Wittenberg University 2003 Michigan State University 2006

Training & Experience: Successful scientist and business women that has a vision to CHANGE the direction of where Lima is going. I plan to help create a thriving and prosperous town, bringing solutions and actions, not words and promises. Lima and the people deserve a real change.

Web Site: <http://www.elizabethhardesty.vote>

Email: hardestyforlimamayor@gmail.com

Q: What is your 5 year vision for economic development in the city?

A: Growing our great city needs to be priority. Lima has been heading in one direction for too long, and now we have that rare opportunity to change course and reshape our city. My campaign represents a new path with a fresh vision that will bring a true CHANGE to Lima. Lima has always built things. It's who we are. My vision for Lima is to build something again-together. We will build a city founded on hope and hard work. We will build communication between the city, the county and the townships. We will build strong neighborhoods by increasing access to home ownership. We will build partnerships between our educational institutions and employers to promote greater economic development by bringing new and higher wage jobs and having the skilled workers to fill those positions. We will build stronger essential services for a safer city. We will build more recreational opportunities. We will build opportunities for the entire community, creating a more robust and stable economy.

Q: How will you address income inequality in our city?

A: One benefit of the COVID pandemic is that it has opened up the job market. Companies are actively seeking and investing in hiring and training workers. Here in the Lima area, there are nearly 2,000 jobs available. My administration will work with the Allen Economic Development Group, Ohio Means Jobs, our schools and social services to remove barriers to employment and income equality that keep people from applying for and securing these jobs. Things like lack of child care and transportation, substance abuse, and lack of training. The programs to overcome these obstacles are already in place. I will work to strengthen and promote these programs and work with the schools to make sure their curriculum is aligned to meet the needs of job creators. We need to have a well-trained, dependable workforce available to attract new companies to Lima. Stable employment leads to stronger families and stronger communities and provides income equality for all segments of our population.

Q: Crime prevention and 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?

A: While the current administration keeps stating that crime has been decreasing, Lima is being devastated by a crime rate that is twice as high as the Ohio and national averages. The lack of manpower in the Lima Police Department has had dramatic effects on the rise in violent crime. Murders rose from 5 in 2019 to 12 in 2020. Mental health issues, drugs and gang violence had a hand in virtually all of them. With LPD understaffed by nearly 20%, how can they work these cases and prevent more? I will staff safety services to a proper level so officers can keep up with daily activities and still be pro-active. I envision creating a Director of Safety Services position to bridge information and needs between my administration and safety services. My administration will work with private sector organisations like Lima/Allen County Neighborhoods in Partnership and Downtown Lima to share ideas and develop a network of people to partner with LPD to help ensure the safety of our community.

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

A: Lima's Civic Service Board was created to help ensure quality, diversity and equality in our city's employees. But the city has to change its civil service rules to allow outside hiring. The chiefs, for example, are only able to be selected from amongst the police department's majors and the fire department's deputy chiefs. Literally, the attorney general of the United States cannot be hired to be Lima's police chief. The rules must be changed to allow outside applicants to be able to start in positions other than firefighter/patrolman. Imagine an African-American born and raised in Lima, working as a fire captain in Columbus. Mom and dad are getting older and he wants to move home. There is a fire battalion chief job open with the Lima Fire Department, but LFD cannot hire him because he is not already in the department. It's absurd. It's not just absurd from the minority aspect, but from an overall talent perspective. The board needs to be effective and timely for all positions.

Q: What could city council do to encourage youth to stay in Lima and also make the city more enticing to incoming residents?

A: As mayor, I will work with City Council members to review safety services and quality of life issues in Lima. We must reduce crime and make Lima a safe place to live and work. Next, we need a new approach to housing that focuses on mid-range families so that people who work in Lima can find suitable housing to fit their income and size needs instead of having to commute from other communities. Subsidised housing is not suitable for today's young professionals. We have attempted to resolve housing issues with subsidised housing for over 30 years. A fresh approach is needed. I will also work with City Council to make sure businesses know Lima is open for business! If an individual or company wants to make an investment in Lima, then we need to be ready to assist them as much as possible. Finally, I will work with City Council to find greater use of the Park and Recreation facilities, especially to look for ways to expand those options to attract businesses and people to our city.

Q: What specific strategies or actions will you take to improve the housing stock in the City of Lima?

A: Lima is below 50% owner-occupied households, yet the city continues to develop more low-income housing. We need supply at every price point. I will concentrate on housing that is affordable for working families, young professionals and seniors in three ways: - Partner with local developers to offer tax incentives for new market rate construction, particularly if they use land bank properties. - Work to procure grants to help Lima residents fund home repairs and not let homes reach dilapidation. - Set aside \$10M of our incoming one-time stimulus funds, if allowed, to create a down payment assistance program for residents, regardless of income. This will help attract new homeowners and broaden our tax base. It will also lead to better property maintenance, better schools, and build wealth for the homeowner. The time for studies and focus groups has passed. Now is the time for big ideas and big actions to reverse the decline in homeownership in Lima.



Sharetta Smith

Current Occupation: City of Lima Chief of Staff

Education: University of Toledo, BS Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law, JD University of Phoenix, MBA

Training & Experience: My roots in this community extend across 5 generations. I also have a deep love for Lima and all that makes it unique and the desire to bring my education, skills and twenty years of executive leadership experience to the office of mayor. This diversity of experiences includes practicing law, working in the private sector managing people and administering global contracts; serving as a criminal court magistrate building relationships with law enforcement issuing warrants and setting bonds; and serving as the Chief of Staff for the city, delivering essential services to citizens, overseeing a \$38M operating budget, managing a 400+ member workforce, and leading city government. As Chief of Staff, I've brought fresh eyes, a new perspective, and change to city hall building consensus to get things done; leading a solutions driven community-wide conversation about the future of housing with the creation of the Lima Housing Task Force, collaborating with stakeholders to create an after-school program for middle-school youth, and moving city operations into the 21st century by leveraging technology to improve service delivery. Under my leadership, we've made \$500K in improvements to our parks, invested \$200K in youth programming; \$400K in neighborhoods; \$4M in community development; and reduced crime. There are \$65M in planned investments in our downtown and 2100+ available jobs in the region. Lima needs the kind of dynamic leadership and experience that I bring to harness this momentum and move us forward. Volunteer activities: Lima Women's Leadership Collective, Founder & Board Member; ArtSpace Lima, Board Member; OAESV, Board Member; Allen / Lima Leadership, Graduate; Leadership Ohio, Graduate; Lima Poet Laureate Program, Advisor; Rhodes State College, Hiring Committee for President and Hiring Committee for Diversity & Inclusion Officer; Downtown Lima, Inc.; Hiring Committee for Executive Director

Web Site: <http://sharettaformayor.com>

Email: ssmith.talynn@gmail.com

Q: What is your 5 year vision for economic development in the city?

A: Over the past four years Lima has experienced growth and economic vitality. Today, we have \$65M in new projects started or underway in our Downtown. We have increased the number of available jobs from 1700 to 2200. Lima has also experienced growth in the number of new business startups. As Mayor, I will grow and sustain the health and vitality of our economy and move our region towards one that is recognized for its good jobs, quality of life, diverse entrepreneurial energy, and renewed pride. My vision includes: -A healthy, diversified economy with a strong tax base and opportunities for employment & entrepreneurship for all segments of the community, including under-served areas and populations; -Public/private partnerships that include government, economic development agencies, educational and health care institutions, and businesses; -Support for "home-grown" and community-based businesses, including expanded access to capital; and -A more customer-friendly city government

Q: How will you address income inequality in our city?

A: The global pandemic has fundamentally impacted the daily lives and economic security of Lima residents, and in many cases the pain is being felt most by low-wage workers and women (who were already paid just 83 cents to every dollar earned by men) and their families who depend on their income. Because caregiving responsibilities still fall disproportionately to mothers, women were more likely to take time off of work or work reduced hours during the pandemic - further exacerbating

(Sharetta Smith's response continued on page 3)

(Shareta Smith's response continued from page 2)

the gender pay gap and reducing the share of mothers actively working by 21.1 percentage points. It is fundamental that as we recover, we rebuild an economy that works for everyone, and my plan offers multiple paths to achieve income equality, including: -Investing in early childcare and Pre-K; -Protecting the dignity of work, including honest wages, protected retirement, and fair overtime compensation; -Fighting against burdensome regulations on small businesses; and -Advocating for a livable wages

Q: Crime prevention and 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?

A: Since 2007, overall crime has decreased by 36%. However, many continue to believe that crime is increasing. Despite disbelief around the facts, we all deserve to feel safe in our communities. We can come together to create a Lima with a shared vision for public safety, but to move forward and create change we have to have the uncomfortable conversations about perceptions, race, inequity, trust and trauma. As mayor, I will help us get there by -Hiring more police officers; -Creating a unified approach to public safety by creating a city-wide and neighborhood public safety strategy; -Prioritizing the role social services play in public safety to ensure our law enforcement officers do not carry an unfair burden; -Communicating ongoing performance data about the status of crime, arrests, department workload, and safety of our officers; -Evaluating safety services pay to ensure competitiveness; and -Ask the private sector to provide living wage jobs for formerly incarcerated individuals

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

A: The City of Lima is an equal opportunity employer. As mayor, I will be fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and practices, ensuring there are no barriers to full participation with volunteer and workforce opportunities. Working with Lima City Council and the Civil Service Board, the city has worked to increase diversity among its workforce by moving to a "complete list" hiring practice that requires city departments to interview every person that passes a civil service exam; increasing recruitment efforts among minority candidates by ensuring that marketing and recruitment materials reflect the diversity of Lima's community, and leveraging relationships with community based organizations to ensure that information about volunteer and workforce opportunities reaches the minority community. Going forward, we must do more to embrace the diversity of Lima to build a truly welcoming and inclusive community.

Q: What could city council do to encourage youth to stay in Lima and also make the city more enticing to incoming residents?

A: This moment is a call to action. We should think big about how to build a more healthy and fun Lima that young people will come back to or stay by making real investments in education, social and cultural outlets, and good jobs. Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our local artists and arts institutions struggled to survive. As Mayor in an effort to sustain local jobs, create meaningful cultural experiences for Lima residents and tourists, and attract and retain young people, I will work with city council to: -Encourage higher education institutions, houses of worship and other community organizations to open up the doors to underutilized spaces for the benefit of local artists. -Incentivize commercial property owners with vacant office spaces to make low- or no-cost administrative space available to arts and cultural organizations -Ensure that every neighborhood sees new, innovative art that engages community members in placemaking, storytelling, and relationship building.

Q: What specific strategies or actions will you take to improve the housing stock in the City of Lima?

A: We must use every tool in our toolbox to preserve and expand safe, quality, and affordable housing for everyone all across our city. This will take a comprehensive approach that not only addresses the quantity and quality of housing options, but also improves livability and maintains housing affordability. On day one as mayor, I will implement the housing strategy I've laid out since April that includes: -Creating a Neighborhood Relief Fund to assist with maintenance and repair costs, and a Housing Trust Fund to increase homeownership and close the construction gap for developers -Leveraging back tax properties and vacant lots to create workforce, supportive, and market rate housing development at all income levels, and repurpose some lots into attractive green spaces -Identifying strategies to connect the local workforce to careers in housing construction, -Strengthening code enforcement to rapidly identify nuisance properties, implement more proactive blight removal strategies.

LIMA MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE Term Commences 01/01/2022

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

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$143,701. (Shared between Lima City, Allen County and the State of Ohio)



Tammie K. Hursh

Current Occupation: Judge, Lima Municipal Court

Education: B.S. Bowling Green State University, Psychology; Graduate Studies, Indiana University; J.D. University of Toledo, College of Law

Training & Experience: Licensed Attorney in the State of Ohio, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and admitted to practice in the Federal Court, Northern District of Ohio. I was appointed by the Governor as Judge in the Lima Municipal Court on September 22, 2014 and was subsequently elected to a full term of office in

2015. Since that time I have administered the judicial functions of the Court and have been able to reduce the time period in which cases are heard and disposed of by the Court. Also, the Court has received a certification for our Drug Court docket and we have initiated formal pretrial services, both designed to reduce our local jail population and to reduce recidivism. I have experience hearing criminal, traffic, and civil matters.

LIMA MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK Term Commences 01/01/2022

Responsibilities: Clerk of Courts responsibilities include but are not limited to: maintaining written requests and documents, as well as report to and perform duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Judge and/or Chief Probation Officer.

Term: 6 year

Salary: \$122,145.85 (Salary shared by the City of Lima and Allen County)



Jim Link

Current Occupation: Clerk of Municipal Court

Education: 1981 Lima Central Catholic High School. 1985 Findlay College - B.A. Education. 1994 Lima Technical College - Accounting. 2004 Tiffin University - Masters of Business Administration (MBA). 2012 Michigan State University Judicial Administration Program.

Training & Experience: 1994 - Certified Public Accountant (CPA). 17 Years - Instructor for Becker CPA Review. 27 Years in Government Service. 15 Years

Private Sector Accounting, Consulting & Tax Services. 2013 Professional Certification Award as a Clerk of Court. 2017 Clerk of the Year Award in Ohio.

CITY OF LIMA DIRECTOR OF LAW Term Commences 01/01/2022

Responsibilities: The law department has two divisions: civil and criminal. The city 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: \$136,429.



Anthony L. Geiger

Current Occupation: Law Director

Education: University of Dayton, B.S.B.A. 1979; University of Dayton Law School, J.D. 1983

Training & Experience: Assistant City Prosecutor; Civil Service Board Member; Assistant Law Director; Law Director since 1998

CITY OF LIMA AUDITOR Term Commences 01/01/2022

Responsibilities: 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: \$103,573.12



Randall S. Bartels

Current Occupation: Auditor

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business

Training & Experience: Served as Auditor for eight years. Chief Deputy Auditor for eleven years. Continuing education through both Ohio and National Government Finance Officers Associations

LIMA CITY COUNCIL 1st WARD Term Commences 01/03/2022

Responsibilities: 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. They meet twice per month.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$13,049.03



Todd Gordon

NO REPLY RECEIVED

LIMA CITY COUNCIL 5th WARD Term Commences 01/03/2022

Responsibilities: 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. They meet twice per month.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$13,049.03



Jamie Dixon

Current Occupation: -Housing Coordinator -City Council Representative, Ward 5

Education: - Bachelors Degree of Business Travel Hospitality from International Business College - Masters in Business Administration specializing in Public Administration from Devry Keller Graduate School of Business

Training & Experience: It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your City Council member for the Fifth Ward and the City of Lima for the past four years. In these next four years I vow to work even harder to keep citizens informed,

restoring the great LIMA PRIDE by creating safe & stable neighborhoods for all residents to live, work and play.

Email: jamie.dixon@cityhall.lima.oh.u

LIMA CITY COUNCIL 7th WARD Term Commences 01/03/2022

Responsibilities: 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. They meet twice per month.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$13,049.03



Jon M. Neepser

Current Occupation: Jon currently serves as the 7th Ward City Councilman for the City of Lima and is the chairman of the Finance Committee and a committee member of the Public Works and the Utility committee's He is a funeral director/embalmer with Chiles-Laman Funeral Home and was born and raised in Lima. He attended St. Charles Catholic grade school and Lima Central Catholic High School graduating with Honors Science and Liberal Arts in 1988.

Education: He attended The Ohio State University, Lima campus for 2 years before transferring to the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and graduating in 1992 with a Bachelors Degree in Mortuary Science. He earned his Certified Funeral Service Practitioner, CFSP, designation in 2013 and is currently the only such designation in Allen County.

Training & Experience: After graduation he worked at several different funeral homes in Tiffin, Toledo, Marion, and Delphos before coming back to Lima. He is married to Chandra Neepser and has a step-daughter, Aizlynn. He is an avid Lima Central Catholic T-Bird fan and regularly attends many different sporting events and school fund raisers. He is also an avid Ohio State Buckeye fan and attends many games both in Columbus and across the country. Jon is a member of St. Gerard Catholic Church, Lima Central Catholic Alumni Association, Lima Serra Club, Knights of Columbus-Lima and a 4th degree Knight, Bishop Neumann Csr, Assembly #829, Lima Elks Lodge #54, Lima Eagle's Aerie #370, the Westgate and Boulevard Neighborhood Associations. He currently serves as a board member for the Mass Fatality Planning Committee for Allen County, the Ohio Funeral Directors Association Board of Directors, and has served as the President of 3rd District since 2000 and has also been on the OSHA/EPA committee for the past 15 years.

BLUFFTON COUNCIL Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 4

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4year

Salary: \$3,700.



Jerry Cupples

Current Occupation: Semi Retired

Education: Cleveland Institute of Electronics

Q: Describe improvements you would like to see in the Village of Bluffton in the next 5 years.

A: The current 5 year plan for improvements include an aggressive maintenance of sanitary and storm sewers throughout the Village. These needs are not very exciting news to the General Public, however, they are important to the infrastructure and future of the Village.

Q: What is the single most important problem facing the Village of Bluffton? What specifically can Bluffton Council do to best respond to that issue?

A: I see fiscal responsibility as the most important issue. Putting needs before wants, prioritizing Capital improvements, and efficient use of employees and equipment. Council must insist on transparency and accountability to the Tax paying public.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the Bluffton Council?

A: Years of experience; 6 terms on Council, 2 years as an employee of the Village, and 38 years working with the public as a Customer Service Account Manager with American Electric Power. I also bring a very conservative view to spending, and living within the budget.

Mitchell Kingsley

NO REPLY RECEIVED

David Steiner

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Phil Talavina

NO REPLY RECEIVED

ELIDA VILLAGE COUNCIL Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 4

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$2,450/yr

Michael W. Campbell

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Kenneth R. Hall

Current Occupation: Retired

Education: Graduate Lima Senior 1960 Graduate of Ohio Northern University 1964, 2006

Training & Experience: Store manager Pangles Markets, VP Roundy's & Nash Finch. Former Board of Trustees ONU, CASA volunteer. Jefferson Award Winner 2021. Former president Noon Optimist.

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

A: Single most important issue facing the Village and Council is to make a decision on whether the village will construct a new wastewater treatment facility, or become part of the Allen County system. We have information from the county and are waiting from our engineer for cost estimates for the village building a new plant.

Q: Describe improvements you would like to see in the Village of Elida over the next 5 years.

A: At this time other than the wastewater building project I don't see a lot of projects that need to be done.

Q: What specific strengths do you bring to the Council?

A: Retired from Roundy's as vice president of marketing/merchandising for overseeing the purchasing and distribution of approximately \$500 million dollars of product each year. My ability to see what is best for the community cost wise and look to the future needs of the community. Able to compromise when in the best interest of the village. Having been a resident of the village for over 20 years, I have the perspective of have the residents of the village see things. I have served the last two years on council and have a feel for the operations of the village and served at village administrator for a year.

Rhonda McCoy

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Darryl J. Nichols

Current Occupation: Retired

Education: High School Diploma

Training & Experience: Current Council Member Former Council Member 1992-1996 Former Village Mayor 1996-1997

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

A: Maintaining current services on a limited budget is the most important issue. We need to be creative with the funds we have available Council members need to be able to think outside the box to stretch those funds.

Q: Describe improvements you would like to see in the Village of Elida over the next 5 years.

A: Maintaining and improving Elida utilities are the most important things facing the Village in the next 5 years. The Village needs to improve the water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewers systems due to aging infrastructure. To do this we must secure grants and or low interest loans to help defray the costs for Village residents. The Village needs to use new technologies where possible to help keep costs low.

Q: What specific strengths do you bring to the Council?

A: I have an open mind and willing to listen to Village residents. I have the experience and the ability to come up with new ideas to help the residents of the Village to keep costs low.

AMERICAN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 2

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$18,850.



Paul Basinger

Current Occupation: American Township Trustee, Elida High School Resource Officer, Independent Business Owner Basinger Process Service LLC

Education: High School Graduate, Multiple Continuing Ohio Township Education Classes, Currently working on additional Continuing Education for American Township, Continuing Education Allen County Sheriffs Office

Training & Experience: Graduate: Allen Lima Leadership Academy, Ohio Township Graduate of: Building Sustainable Community's, Effective Decision

Making, Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, Annexations vs. Non-Withdraw Annexations, Graduate of Ohio Township Leadership Academy

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

A: Finances have always been the major issue with township government. American Township Trustees manage an 8 mil + budget. I am proud to say we operate a debt free township. We created a township owned fire department with a 2.2 mil operating budget. We operate two fully manned stations in American Township. The newest fire station on Edgewood Drive was built without borrowing any money. Our recent purchase of two new Medic Units was accomplished through grants received, costing the township zero dollars. We are now purchasing a ladder truck capable of reaching the tallest buildings in American Township. Through responsible fiscal management, this truck will also be purchased debt free. We also have four well maintained cemeteries. Roads are another major concern the township faces. These issues are addressed in a proactive manner, rather than reactive. It's a vital fiscal responsibility to replace, repair, and maintain our roads in all seasons. Equipment for all departments, from our Roads to our Safety Services (Police, Fire and EMS) is a huge investment for American Township. This allows our employees the ability to perform their duties with the best and safest equipment possible. When you see American Township vehicles and equipment while travelling through the township, you can be assured our employees have the best available. All these things can only be made possible through good fiscal management by the trustees, to manage the tax payers dollars effectively.

Q: What area(s) of focus do you want to address while in your role of Township Trustee?

A: My main focus is fiscal responsibility by spending the tax payers dollars wisely and continuing to secure available grant monies. This past year, American Township received over two million dollars in grants. It's vital to be transparent through all my actions. To be a servant leader with compassion about my job, American Township, and our employees. Continue to have an open door policy and being readily available to all residents and their concerns. In Summary: None of what I do would be possible without the hiring and retainment of a great work force. These employees, to include road maintenance, drainage and ditches, zoning boards and zoning enforcement, our incredible police and fire department, are invaluable to my success as a trustee. I can't thank our exemplary employees enough for their dedication and support. Through continued cooperative efforts of our employees and the citizens of American Township, we will continue to make the township a great place to live and flourish.

Ross M. Harmon

Current Occupation: Wastewater Collection Worker at Allen County Sanitary Engineers

Education: Graduated from Elida Local School, Associated Degree in Industrial Maintenance Heavy Equipment and CDL A Licence, Wastewater Collection Licence

Training & Experience: I worked at American Township for Over 6 Years as part of the road crew where I assisted in normal duties but also was a part of meetings about maintaining and upgrading roads and drainage. I have now been at Allen County Sanitary for 3 years where I have learned even more about Asset Management as it involves equipment and infrastructure.

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

A: There are no known major issues facing the township at this time. However, there has been a trend of hire-re-hire to different municipalities for whatever reason. I would really like to compete with the other entities by listening to current township employees and working on keeping these great employees long term through whatever capacity we can. From previous experience, some possible topics of discussion at hand is the funding available for all workers. This could include anywhere between better insurance options, better work environments or even looking into new innovative equipment to make jobs safer and more efficient for the fire department, police department, zoning department and road crew.

Q: What area(s) of focus do you want to address while in your role of Township Trustee?

A: I will bring a prospective and focus greatly on roads, bridges and drainage, and hopefully having the best in the area. I would also be very interested in looking at funds available to upgrade our township house. My reason for this interest is that a lot of our community members rent our building for all kinds of meetings and parties for special events both private and public. I would also like to focus on obtainable grant money which would help with infrastructure upgrades and maintenance. American Township has a lot of entertainment and restaurants but comments I have heard personally would be more access to parks, playground equipment, baseball fields/basketball courts and open areas for other activities the community could use. Overall, providing all workers and community members with access to community resources is what makes a community better itself over time.



Lynn D. Mohler

Current Occupation: American Township Trustee

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education, Ohio Northern University; Masters of Education & Administration, Wright State University

Training & Experience: 30 years in educational administration, 12 years American Township Trustee, 10 years Insurance Industry

Web Site: <http://amertwp.us>

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

A: Issue #1: The maintenance of American Township's 70 miles of roadway. At present it cost approximately \$85,000-\$90,000 to maintain and pave (not chip and stone) 1 mile of roadway. Ohio townships receive "part" of the state's motor vehicle license fees and gasoline tax, as well as generating additional revenues through local taxation to fund road maintenance. The present budget for our roadways is approximately \$400,000. Due to increase in gasoline prices, people do not drive as often so our tax revenue is lower. Issue #2: Acquiring available certified firefighters & law enforcement officers. There is a shortage of qualified firefighters and law enforcement officers in the state of Ohio which makes the hiring process difficult.

Q: What area(s) of focus do you want to address while in your role of Township Trustee?

A: My first priority is our Safety Services which include the police, fire, and emergency medical protection. My second priority is the maintenance of our roadways, cemeteries, and bridges

BATH TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 2

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$13,612.

Brad Baxter

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Michael D. Meeks

Current Occupation: Retired

Training and Experience: 38 year State Farm agent, 8 years Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper, 14 years past Bath Township Trustee, Vietnam veteran

No Response to Questions Received

PERRY TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 2

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$13,612.

Gregory J. Kessen

NO REPLY RECEIVED

SHAWNEE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 2

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$22,676.



**Michael J. Ayers (left)
Keith Cunningham (right)**

Current Occupation: **Michael:** President of The Ayers Incorporated

Keith: Contractual consulting and sales services

Education: **Michael:** 1984 Lima Central Catholic High School graduate, Master of Photography, Master of Photographic Arts

Keith: 1970 Lima Senior High School graduate, miscellaneous professional and training certification courses

Training & Experience: After being Honorably Discharged from the US Navy 36 years ago, MICHAEL founded The Ayers Incorporated and is known for his photographic images all over the world. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Wedding and Portrait Photographers International, West Central Ohio Small Business of the Year, LCC Hall of Fame, the Jefferson Award for Public Service, the United Nations Leadership Award, and International Photographer of the

(Michael J. Ayers and Keith Cunningham's response continued on page 6)

(Michael J. Ayers and Keith Cunningham's response continued from page 5)

Year. He has had more than 50,000 photography students from more than 100 countries. KEITH is experienced in all levels of government serving as Director of the Allen County Board of Elections, the Advisory Board of the U.S. Election Administration Commission, the Board of the National Association of Election Officials, and as the Director of Compliance for the Ohio Secretary of State's office. In 2012, he was appointed the Secretary's Special Master, successfully providing oversight for the Presidential Election in Lucas County, Ohio. Keith's public service began in 1988 when he was first elected to Lima City Council, and later as Council President.

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

A: For years, Ayers and Cunningham have become frustrated with the lack of direction/communication in Shawnee. As we navigate the pandemic, both wish to come together to help the community grow. So for the first time ever in the township, they are running a collaborative campaign, not competing. Their names however will appear separately on the ballot. They feel they have the unique skills, experience and shared vision to move Shawnee in a new direction to address the following priorities: **SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS/BUSINESSES** They feel the safety of our residents/businesses is paramount. Never again should residents fear losing their police department and the current township trustees need to be held accountable for potentially putting the safety of all families and businesses at risk. **STREAMLINE TAXES** The current approach is outdated and needs a revision. If elected, they will complete a thorough analysis of Shawnee Township's tax structure; analyze rates, levies and millage and recommend effective new strategies to the voters. **ENHANCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** Shawnee is home to many of the region's largest employers and has an underutilized Foreign Trade Zone along I-75 with easy access to utilities, rail, air and truck transportation. They will initiate The Shawnee Business Council to advise and assist them in enhancing development efforts in a collaborative manner. **MAINTAIN HIGH PROPERTY VALUES** They will be good fiscal stewards of resources ensuring quality safety services and roads.

Q: What area(s) of focus do you want to address while in your role of Township Trustee?

A: We are running a collaborative campaign and if elected, plan to lead the township in a similar manner. We truly are "better together." The first word you see on every township vehicle is "Shawnee." We intend to focus on fostering a united township; working collaboratively with business/industry, economic development, government officials, as well as churches/schools to move forward in a vibrant, new direction. We plan to do a thorough analysis of the township finances and based upon our findings, recommend bold changes in the tax structure because no one wants to pay higher taxes. We feel strongly that Shawnee is underdeveloped and will work hard to draw new business to the area with the help of our proposed Shawnee Business Council which will be made up of leaders representing all sectors of our local economy. No future growth is possible without strong safety services to keep our families, homes, and businesses safe and our home values high. Trustees must consistently communicate.



Ted Ciminillo

Current Occupation: Sales and Marketing Manager for American Pavements Inc
Education: Lima Central Catholic Class of 1981 Attended Northwestern Business College
Training & Experience: American Pavements and Irving Concrete of Ohio.

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

A: Teamwork and communication among departments are two major issues that we face in Shawnee Township. I plan to address these issues by being transparent with all department heads and constituents. In addition, I will use my leadership skills to foster a positive working environment, in which benefits the community.

Q: What area(s) of focus do you want to address while in your role of Township Trustee?

A: I have extensive experience in road preservation. As your Township Trustee, I will focus on road maintenance, fiscal management, grants that benefit Shawnee Township and improving technologies among departments. #PavingTheWay



Clark Spieles

Current Occupation: Owner of Spieles Nurseries
Education: Shawnee High School - 1985 Graduate, Ohio State University - 1990 Graduate
Training & Experience: 4 years as Shawnee Township Trustee, 31 year local business owner

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

A: Spending of taxpayer's dollars, in a time of economic uncertainty, is one of the major issues that Shawnee Township faces. While local governments have seen a loss in federal and state assisted programs, costs continue to rise. It is important that as Shawnee Township Trustees we have a clear and concise understanding of the department budgets and make decisions that will stretch tax dollars so that we can continue the outstanding services that we provide to our residents. In addition, we will continue to seek and utilize any available grants or special funding to subsidize the cost of Township needs, equipment and projects.

Q: What area(s) of focus do you want to address while in your role of Township Trustee?

A: As one of your Township Trustees, I will continue to focus on spending. As a 30 year successful business owner, I understand the fluctuations in the economy, goods and services. Balancing departmental budgets and maintaining healthy carryovers will enable the township to provide for our residents well into the future. I will continue to manage our taxpayer's dollars wisely



James W. Thompson III

Current Occupation: West Central Ohio Regional Manager - Garcia Surveyors, Inc.

Training & Experience: 30 years - Civil Engineering/Surveying Industry 20 years - Ohio Army National Guard (retired) 29 years -Marriage 4 years - Church Board member

Web Site: http://www.facebook.com/groups/4240080982745512/?modal=false&should_open_composer=false&hoisted_section_header_type=notifications&show_migration_preparation_dialog=false&show_migration_onboarding_dia

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

A: 1 – Migration away from a local to a regional emergency services dispatch system. If elected, I have concerns regarding oversight, accountability, liability and cost controls associated with ceding such responsibility to our County government. It would be my opinion that the savings associated with such a migration would need to significantly outweigh the benefit(s) of retaining dispatch services locally to even be worthy of consideration. 2 – Renewable energy development. If elected, work with the Allen County Commissioners to designate portions of Shawnee Township that we feel should be excluded from utility-scale renewable energy developments. Such exclusion zones should take into account public opinion while complying with the Township's Long Term Comprehensive Plan.

Q: What area(s) of focus do you want to address while in your role of Township Trustee?

A: 1 – Transparency. As we are a government "Of the people", having access to services supplied by the township should not come with undue burden. It would be my opinion that this helps foster trust and confidence that the money you provide the township is being spent responsibly and the services you receive are done so in a professional/ethical manner. 2 – Long term planning. I would like to implement, or further develop, a long term capital improvement plan for all township departments/services. This would not only include planning for future capital expenditures but also designating a portion of revenue received into the township to be "set aside" for this. 3 – Balance. Shawnee Twp. has achieved and maintained a nice balance of industrial, commercial and residential development. Seeing that we retain, or improve upon, our unique combination of rural/urban appeal is important to me. I believe this unique trait makes our township a great place to work, live and raise a family in.

ALLEN COUNTY ESC Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 year

Salary: \$125/meeting

David E. Mayer

NO REPLY RECEIVED



Jo A. McConnell

Current Occupation: Educator, Spencerville Schools

Education: BS- The Ohio State University

Training & Experience: In Education for 25 years

ALLEN COUNTY ESC Unexpired Term Ending 12/31/2023 - Vote for no more than 1

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 year

Salary: \$125/meeting

NO VALID PETITION RECEIVED

This chart is provided for your education about proposed HB 322 and HB 327. It is provided so the general public will have some understanding of these bills. We encourage you to further look into these bills for a more comprehensive understanding.

<p>HB 322: Applies to K-12 Public School Districts and State Agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans and restricts “the teaching of certain current events and certain concepts regarding race and sex in public schools.” • Prohibits teaching, approval of, or use of curricula, lesson plans, textbooks, materials, and practices related to “prohibited concepts.” • Prohibits requiring discussion of current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs. • Prohibits providing accreditation and course credit for activism, advocacy, or lobbying around social or public policy. • Prohibits acceptance of private funding to develop curriculum, purchase material, or provide professional training related to “prohibited concepts”.
<p>HB 327: “The Promoting Education Not Indoctrination Act” applies to K-12 Public Schools, STEM Schools, Community Schools, State Agencies, Higher Education Institutions, and Political Subdivisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits the promotion, teaching, and training of “divisive concepts.” • Prohibits acceptance of private funding that would “promote” “divisive concepts.” • Prohibits requiring a student to advocate for or against a “divisive concept” for course credit. • Requires the Dept of Education and Dept of Higher Education to withhold up to 100% of state funding from school districts, schools, and higher education institutions, and suspend or revoke professional licensure for violations.

ALLEN EAST SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$125/meeting

Brian Hershberger

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Sarah L. Jones

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Kyle Miller

NO REPLY RECEIVED

BATH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 2

Responsibilities: 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 policies

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$125/meeting (maximum of 15 meetings, \$1875.)

NO VALID PETITIONS WERE FILED



BLUFFTON SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: School Board Members set educational goals and establish policy for the 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$100/meeting (Maximum of \$1,200)

Bradley J. Dailey



Education: The Ohio State University; B.S. Business Administration 2003
Bluffton High School 1998

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

A: The most important issue for Bluffton Schools, as well as most public schools, is finances. Bluffton is currently very fiscally sound. Our administrators and my fellow school board members are proud of this. We strive to find the balance between keeping our expenses low while continuing to offer the best education possible. Increasing our general fund helps us in two ways. First, a strong general fund prepares us for any future economic recession we may be faced with or an abrupt change in state level funding. Second, and very important to our residents, this keeps us from having to ask our voters for more of their funds from tax levies. During my time on the board, we have been able to maintain and improve our facilities, purchase new buses to keep our bus fleet in great shape, and update our networking, security, and lighting systems all while maintaining general fund growth. I will continue to use my voice on the board to see that we keep our school system on the path of excellence.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I have been a member of the Board of Education since November 2019 when I applied, interviewed, and was appointed by the members of the board. When I interviewed, I proudly spoke of the many community and professional positions I have held. I am currently VP and Treasurer of Bluffton Diamond Sports, actively coaching our youth for 10 years; Treasurer, Committee Member, and Leader with Boy Scout Troop 256 and Cub Scouts Pack 256; current Member and past Co-VP of the Music Boosters. Professionally, I am the Asst Manager of Glandorf Feed Co where I am also on the Board of Directors. I held these same positions while employed by my father at Southgate Lanes in Bluffton. Bluffton has been my home my entire life. My wife Jessica and I have three children in Bluffton Schools: Carter (Senior), Caitlin (Senior), and Coby (7th Grade). There is no better feeling than knowing that my children attend and will graduate in the community and school that I love and am so passionate about.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: Ohio HB322 and HB327 were just recently introduced in the House and even more recently referred to a House Committee. While I am vaguely aware of its contents, it is too new for me to feel comfortable taking a position on. This will be worked through in the House and more than likely have many changes made to it before it would ever reach the Governor’s desk.

Mitch Giesige

Current Occupation: Engineer
Education: Bachelor of Science

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

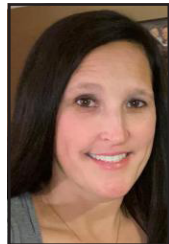
A: Being able to bring a fresh perspective and ideas is beneficial in any situation involving any school board. I believe being able to keep open communication and transparency amongst staff and faculty is also key to the success of any school. At the same time you have to make sure your student body is engaging not only in the classroom but extracurricular activities as well.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: Communication and team work with people from multiple cultures and backgrounds. Budget management, and leadership has also been a large part of my career experiences along with analysis.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: There is still a lot of ambiguity to both of these bills which stills need more detailed clarification. I don't believe government should have the right to dictate what is or is not being taught to our children regarding sensitive subjects. Every state and every country has history, which is important to learn and understand so we can draw the positives out and also not make the same mistakes as in some situations. I don't believe its fair or realistic to use these bills as financial leverage against schools as well, which would ultimately impact the education of our youth, which is the main priority.



Roni L. Kaufman

Current Occupation: Executive Director for the Lima Area Health Education Center

Education: -K-12: Bluffton Exempted Village Schools -Bachelors Degree: The Ohio State University-Lima -Masters Degree (Education): University of Findlay

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

A: The number one issue facing the district right now, like most districts, is how to manage pandemic-related concerns, with an emphasis on keeping students and staff safe but also recognizing the importance of in-person instruction for our children. Our students cannot afford another year of at-home or hybrid learning and still be expected to meet the necessary performance and testing benchmarks. It is also important for us to respect the religious and medical freedom of the families in our district. As a member of the school board during this period of uncertainty, I will advocate for the adoption of a formal pandemic plan, created with significant public input, with specific objectives that must be met before any future restrictions would be placed on students or staff.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: As a member of your school board, I bring a number of strengths to the table. First, I am an alumnus of Bluffton Schools, I hold a Masters Degree in Education, and the daughter of a former teacher and a former coach in our school system. Second, as a woman and the mother of three current students in the district, I bring a different viewpoint than the current all-male school board and all-male administration. This is not a criticism of the current leaders, but I do believe that diversity of opinion is crucial to making sure all options are explored when making decisions that affect our children and that our leaders do not fall victim to the groupthink of a few. Finally, those of you who know me, know that I am open and honest to the point of being outspoken. It is critical for good public policy that it be debated in an open forum with input from all.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I cannot give a complete opinion on HB 322 and 327 because much is still unknown as to what the bill actually prohibits. The bills, in their current form, restrict how districts and their teachers can discuss topics labeled as "divisive", without actually defining the specific subjects nor the depth of those subjects to be restricted. In general, my attitude towards education policy is that local teachers, in consult with local administrators, following the guidance of local school boards elected and accountable to local residents, should make decisions on what is to be taught to our children. To that end, as a member of your school board I will fight to retain local control over our curriculum and finances and fight against unfunded mandates and policy shifts made at the whim of big-city politicians in Columbus that do not match the values of Bluffton and its residents.



Wesley L. Klinger

Current Occupation: Accounting & Finance
Education: Bowling Green State University - Bachelor in Accounting Findlay University - MBA

Training & Experience: 8 years experience on Bluffton School Board with multiple years as President. 24+ years with multiple opportunities (Accounting, Finance, Forecasting & Budgeting) at Marathon Petroleum. Former Board Member at Bluffton Recreation Center. Former Board Member at Bluffton Preschool, multiple years as President. Former Deacon at Ebenezer Mennonite Church. Multiple school board training courses. Multiple opportunities to be involved in school levy renewals. High level budget/forecast/planning experience. Leadership skills.

Web Site: <http://www.facebook.com/KlingerforBlufftonSchoolBoard>

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

A: That is an interesting question as there are a few things that give me pause as a school board member and most specifically as a parent that has had 2 kids graduate Bluffton, and another 2 that will. Funding, technology, student involvement, continued leadership, continuing to hire top talent. etc. The one item that has recently crept to the top of my list is the pressure and uncertainty facing our students. Students face pressures today from a fast moving society that I never did. COVID can be debated by many, but the one thing that can't be is it is additive to this pressure. The mental and social health of students along with student engagement is so critical right now for their growth and development. At Bluffton, it is something we don't shy away from thru training for our staff, to special programs for students, to adding to our guidance counselor pool. I have been proud to be a small part of it as a board member.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I feel like over the past 8 years I have brought the following to the board and will continue to if re-elected. The ability to lead and continue to look for process improvements for the betterment of students. There are 4 key roles associated with being a board member - Vision, Structure, Accountability, and Advocacy. My experiences and opportunities both in my professional life at Marathon and in my personal life in being involved with organizations has allowed me to hone my skills in these 4 components. Anyone that has worked with me knows, I am a big believer in celebrating successes but I am probably an even bigger believer in continuous improvements. Bluffton Schools have had a multitude of successes to be proud of but as a board member there is a need to provide that vision, structure, accountability, and advocacy along with teachers, staff, and administrators to look to improve performance, even amongst all of our successes.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I am aware of both HB322 and HB327 through research and what has been provided via the media. Even that information has been extremely limited since both are still in early stages. Obviously, our administrative staff and mainly our superintendent does a tremendous job of tracking what happens or may happen at the state house. As a board member, I have resources thru our Ohio School Board Association and personal research but we do lean on our leaders at the school for impact on our curriculum. I will continue to monitor the progress as it moves thru the process, but many bills never make it to an action.

DELPHOS SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: 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 school board policies.

They meet the 2nd Monday of each month.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$125/meeting, (cap of \$1,500)



Tina Brinkman

Education: B.A. in Accounting from BGSU

Training & Experience: I have over 20 years of experience in accounting/controlling finances for a local community company.

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

A: I believe we currently have a strong board and I would be honored to bring my strengths and career background in finances, to the seat. Our community strength and on-going growth relies heavily on our strong school system and in turn, the community is relying heavily on this group to be sure that our on-going financial condition is maintained. There is no major single-issue focus, but rather an overall interest in the success of not only our students and staff, but also working to remain focused and continue to push to provide a strong school for our community.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I have background in manufacturing accounting/controlling. I have many years of experience working within a strong team environment with my career management staff; working toward the common goal of maintaining a strong and financially healthy business. My strengths revolve heavily around having, understanding, and delivering visions/goals and holding those accountable for results. I have a good analytical background, I listen well, and I enjoy collaborative efforts from a team. I feel all those strengths will be necessary in keeping our district moving forward.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: - no response -





Jason Grogg

Current Occupation: Purchaser/Buyer, The Vanamatic Company
Education: Delphos Jefferson, class of 1992

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

A: State Funding. I have been in contact and will continue to have communication with state representatives in regards to the funding formula. Delphos is adversely affected, by how the state allocates money to our district. We are punished due to the makeup of the enrollment numbers. We receive a considerably less percentage of dollars per student when compared to every district that surrounds us. The State House needs to start recognizing the Delphos student as being equal to other students in the state.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I will always work to make the Delphos school district, the finest in the state. I believe our best days are always ahead of us.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I fully support Ohio HB322 and HB327.

Andy North

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Rebecca Suever

NO REPLY RECEIVED

ELIDA SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$125/meeting (cap of \$1,500)



Alisa Agozzino

Current Occupation: Associate Professor of Public Relations at Ohio Northern University

Education: Agozzino received her bachelor's degree in communication from Ohio Northern University and her master's and Ph.D. in public relations from Bowling Green State University.

Training & Experience: Please see CV attached in website information below.

Web Site: <http://www.onu.edu/directory/alisa-agozzin>

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

A: Achievement gaps caused by the pandemic. This isn't uncommon among schools, but it is a unique problem to all those in education in that there is no case studies or instances to reflect on from the past to guide us. The greatest challenge remains to figure out how to address all the needs—that vary greatly. With this issue, some students also carry severe anxiety as well, so it's just not academic needs. I would address by making sure we are informed of the issue and are helping to bring in the best resources to combat the problem. Identifying the need, building a strategy to combat the problem, and executing the strategy to set up our Elida students for the best success would be how I would address this issue. I have been a professor of public relations and social media at Ohio Northern University since 2007. I have conducted three separate accreditation visits across the country, which makes me skilled in understanding curriculum development and assessment strategies for education.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: Before teaching in higher ed, I worked five years in higher ed as an admissions counselor and worked with high school students to make sure they were prepared to enter academic rigor of college. I also worked with the board on the social media campaign for the Elida Elementary levy. I enjoyed the opportunity to keep the wider community informed on issues that concerned the levy. I also have spent the last several years speaking at the Elida Middle School Team Day on social media safety, an area of research I am passionate in sharing and informing the public about. Lastly, as a former collegiate athlete I enjoy athletics from the youth to the high school level. I've helped with the BYAA track and field program and volleyball program. I think it's amazing Elida allows our youth to participate and sharpen their skills at such a young age while developing a love for the game. I still am an active OHSSA track and field official, just completing my 20th year.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: Both of these bills would actively censor and restrict how teachers can discuss racism and sexism in the k-12 classroom. Additionally, it would limit teachers' professional development and training regarding certain topics that the bills label 'divisive', which in all my years of teaching writing courses is a loaded-word that means something different to different people. UGH. I think much more work needs to be explored in defining what is meant by 'divisive' and until that can be more clearly defined, neither of these bills I would be in favor of supporting. Furthermore, I found a piece online that I'd like to share on the subject. I think this is thoughtfully written and is worth the read! https://cdfohio.org/cdf_oh_blog/expose-the-boil-house-bills-322-and-327.



Barry Barnt

Current Occupation: 4th Grade Teacher

Education: Graduate of Elida High School, B.S. The Ohio State University, M.A. University of Dayton

Training & Experience: Teacher for over 25 years. Elida School Board last 4 years.

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

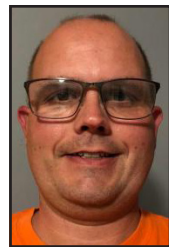
A: The single most important issue facing all public school districts continues to be fair school funding. I will continue to be an advocate for public schools and a fair funding formula.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: My strength is my experience in education. I will continue to emphasize that the school district is being well managed. I will also continue to keep the focus on staff and students.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: Ohio House Bills 322 and 327 have been introduced, which would restrict the teaching of certain concepts and topics in K-16 classrooms. I feel both bills are currently vague about what are "divisive" concepts and who decides what an acceptable way to teach the concepts are? I feel both need more details for teachers.



Jason M. Bowers

Education: Bachelor's Degree

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

A: Finances is always a top issue for schools. With Elida being a capped school district, we do not receive the funding we should get from the state. This forces Elida to be cautious with our spending in case we get reduced funding from the state. The best way to address this issue is to understand school financing and to be aware of where the money is spent within the school district.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: A strength I will bring to the board is the knowledge I have learned from my time being on the board. This has allowed the district to create long term goals to help improve the district.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: HB 322 and HB 327 would limit what can be taught in history class to the students. History lessons need to be taught the way it happened. Our history has not always been pleasant. Students can learn from this and help prevent those events from happening again.



Jeffery J. Christoff

Current Occupation: Professor, Raabe College of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University

Education: Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio B.S. Pharmacy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Training & Experience: member, Elida Local Schools Board of Education, 2 terms (2013-2021) member, Ohio School Board Association (conferences and

workshops)

Web Site: <http://www.facebook.com/Jeff-Christoff-for-Elida-School-Board-246109780660845>

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

A: The pandemic has forced businesses to undergo rapid digital transformation in retail, dining, telemedicine, and entertainment. Why hasn't K12 education successfully pivoted into digital learning? It is because K12 education nationwide has been ill-prepared for rapidly integrating technology into various student instructional activities. The ability to use technology during life's next stage, whether college, the workforce, a vocational occupation, or the military, is an expectation of our Elida graduates. The Elida community has gracefully funded a new elementary building, which includes state-of-the-art technology. To optimize this community investment, all K12 students must be issued an individually assigned device to take home each day, to complete activities outside the classroom. The Board of Education must recognize that technology is as important as reading, writing, and arithmetic for student success, and is a key component of ODE's 2024 Strategic Plan: Each Child, Our Future.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: After completing 10 years in undergraduate and graduate training programs, I have spent the last 28 years as a university professor. I think that dedication clearly demonstrates that I highly value education, and I am committed to be a lifelong learner, problem solver, and critical thinker. I am an expert in data collection and data analysis, which drives my evidence-based decision-making. I am not persuaded by individual personalities; I am only persuaded by an informed analysis of the data. My combined experiences as a professor, pharmacist, and school board member have developed my skills in leadership, budget analysis, audits, financial forecasts, accreditation, regulatory compliance, strategic planning, executive searches, peer evaluation for promotion/tenure, policy development, ethical & professional conduct resolution, curricular assessment, coupling student assessment with learning objectives, as well as modification of instructional methods to enhance student success.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I am strongly opposed to HB322 & HB327, and utilized the League of Women Voters of Ohio's messaging system to voice my objection to numerous state representatives. These bills are a politically manufactured "crisis" prohibiting the academic freedom of instructors in both K12 and

(Jeffery J. Christoff's response continued on page 10)

higher educational environments, where a yet to be identified individual, or oversight group, will determine what is or isn't "acceptable" in the classroom, on a case-by-case basis. Teachers should be permitted to discuss potentially "divisive concepts" with their students to broaden perspectives, and develop empathy and critical thinking skills. These bills, as written, could jeopardize such a teacher's livelihood as an unintended consequence. Curricular control and oversight should reside at the local school district level, with the teachers, principals, curriculum directors, superintendents, and Boards of Education, utilizing the Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Learning Standards for student instruction.

LIMA SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: 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 policies.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$80/meetings (maximum 12 meetings)



Cindy Brownlow

Current Occupation: Traveling Nurse Practitioner

Education: I was committed to becoming a Nurse Practitioner and after graduating from my alma mater, Lima Senior High School in 1982, I pursued higher education. My preparatory journey started with the Apollo Career Center where I attended and graduated in 1985 as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Next, I obtained an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) in 1989 and graduated as a Registered Nurse (RN) from Lima Technical College. In 2006, I attended Mercy College of Northwest Ohio where I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). In 2013, I received a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and obtained a Degree as a Family Nurse practitioner (FNP) from the University of Saint Francis.

Training & Experience: I have been a nurse for many years with diverse experiences. I began my career as a Self-Contracted Private Duty Nurse then as a supervisor for Plus Health Care Center as well as being a staff nurse in the Oncology and Coronary Unit at St. Rita's Medical Center (SRMC)/ Mercy Health. While working for SRMC, I became their Shift Supervisor for the Critical Care Units and was promoted to House Supervisor. I developed a love for my community and with that passion I was fortunate to become the Neighborhood Health Nurse for the South end of Lima for SRMC. When that position was phased out, I decided to focus on my education and enrolled in a graduate program at the University of St. Francis where I worked as Adjunct Faculty Clinical Instructor. After graduating, I worked for a Correctional Facility and Ohio Stem Cell for a brief time until my present position as a Traveling Nurse Practitioner.

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

A: According to the Lima City School Superintendent, the attendance rate last year was over 40%. To help with the issue the district has launched their big attendance improvement campaign that consists of a flyer and a commercial in hope of getting the students to be in school every day. I think the commercial on TV is a great idea. I would build on that idea and expand it to include peer groups of students and parents/guardians in the commercials as well. In addition to encouraging more involvement of parents/guardians, I would suggest providing incentives to encourage them to get their children to school "Every Day, On Time." We will promote the importance of attendance with the slogan "School Today, Success Tomorrow." While working in the neighborhood, I learned in order to obtain support, involvement, and ownership I had to offer an incentive that increased my numbers beyond expectations. This will work and build parent's/guardian's accountability for their children's education.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the school board?

A: I was the community health nurse for the South end of Lima which allowed me to know families and their needs, so engaging parents and students is one of my greatest strengths. I feel in-order to learn, our children must be physically and mentally healthy. I understand many of the physical and mental health challenges they face as a family which could be an infringement on their safety. As a school board member, I want to bring this perspective to the Lima City School system for the benefit of our children, their families, teachers, and administrators. As a Nurse Practitioner, it is necessary to be a team-player which is another one of my strengths. I have participated with a neighborhood association which was helpful in setting goals. I will remain current on issues that impact or will impact not only Lima City Schools but schools throughout the State of Ohio. I want to ensure our district adopts the best curriculums that will prepare our students for future success.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: House Bills 322 and 327 –It appears both bills will limit professional growth of educators on certain topics they can teach. The big question is: Are these House Bills trying to prohibit and ban teachings about racism, sexism, slavery, and student involvement in current issues/events, lobbying, etc.? Courses like Social Studies, American History, and Civics Classes would have to adhere to the restrictions outlined or the courses would be labeled noncredit courses. School districts could lose funding. I feel it is extremely important for all cultures to know history. As a school board member, I will definitely let my voice be heard concerning House Bills 322 and 327. I wouldn't want to limit our students' knowledge of our history or current events. Both house bills, if passed, will not just limit what we are allowed to teach but set our students back in learning our forefather's history and it will take back some of the freedoms we have gained in the art of education.



Deanna Reynolds Griffin

Current Occupation: Exercise Physiologist, Mercy Health- St. Rita's

Education: Lima Senior High School- 2001; The Ohio State University, B.S. Education- 2006

Training & Experience: Ohio School Boards Association Northwest Region Executive Committee; Ohio School Boards Association Diversity and Equity Committee; Lima City Schools Hall of Fame Selection Committee; OACVPR Northwest Region Representative; Adjunct Instructor, Saginaw Valley State University

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

A: As for many things in life, education is more than a "one way street" or a single issue topic. It takes many things that work together for a school district to be run successfully. I could say that student achievement is the single most important issue for our district, but with student achievement, many other factors come in to play: administrative leadership, teacher support, development and retention, parental involvement, cultural and socioeconomic awareness, etc. As a district, we must make sure all of these are continuously being looked, built upon and working together so our students are able to achieve at their highest ability and potential. As a board member, I want to be able to guide the policies that lead our district and make sure we have the right people, in the right places to lead our district in the years to come.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the school board?

A: The strengths I would bring to the school board are compassion, being able to see an issue from various sides. My belief is that in order to be a successful member of the board, you have to show compassion for the students you serve. They are the reason we are truly here. You also must be able to see a topic or an issue from various perspectives. How may it feel from the students perspective? The teacher? The parents? All of those must be taken in to account to be effective.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: My position on HB322 and HB327 is simply that I do not agree. In all honesty, these bills are doing the same thing they say they are trying to prevent. We cannot tell someone their feelings or their experiences are invalid or wrong because someone may disagree with them. Just because you may not agree, does not make it not true. History books are written from events that were at one time "current events", so why should we limit discussion on things that are happening around us and that people are experiencing in real time? The answer is, we should not.



Autumn Swanson

Current Occupation: Business Owner

Education: Masters of Public Administration Bachelors of Arts in Ethnic Studies

Training & Experience: I have been in the Public Administration field for over 15 years. I have spent time as a substitute teacher, girl scout leader, program director, and community organizer. I have spent most of my life being a mother to my 3 daughters, and a granny to my 2 year old grand baby, that's an experience all in its self. I have been a volunteer here in the city of Lima for over 15 years in various service organizations. I have sat on numerous boards and held many

positions, therefore I have a clear understanding of Board policy and procedure.

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

A: There are many issues that face the school district and are a rise for concern. You have school budgeting, students facing environmental and home issues, families navigating homelessness and poverty, and the overall evaluation and outcomes procedures for districts. However there is an issue that I am focused on addressing, that is the recruitment and retention of qualified, creative teachers. I have chosen to look more into this issue and have come to realize there is a need to actively recruit teachers who plan to make Lima City Schools a long term position. This starts with having an intent and direction as you fill open positions. Some key points are recruiting teachers that reflect the student body and the community, while being conscientious of the environment that they will be teaching in. We have to have a strategy for retention of teachers that meet expectations. This is done through evaluation and a program that rewards and appreciates a job well done.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the school board?

A: The school board is made up of members who only want the best for the community and its children. I have kids that attend and have graduated from Lima City Schools. I have a very clear understanding of what students are facing in our very own school system. I bring a certain view from the perspective of a parent and a very involved community member. I have knowledge of many issues affecting how students learn and how we can address some of those issues from a policy standpoint. I am also very interested in legislation on a higher level and wanting to stand up for how that impacts the education our district gives our students. I know how important it is to represent the community on the board and I plan to do just that and to participate from that viewpoint.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I do not support Ohio HB322 or HB327. I happen to know what results when we aren't taught certain topics and don't openly discuss the impacts of race on society in school. I want students and teachers to be able to discuss the current dynamics of this society as it has to do with approved curriculum. I am not for the limiting of discussion topics or deleting certain topics in the historical conversation. The government has the right to propose legislation and we have the right to oppose that legislation when it is not in the best interest of our children.

PERRY SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 2

Responsibilities: 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 policies.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$150/meeting (maximum 12 meetings per year)



TOBY PRINSEN

Current Occupation: Adult Education Apollo Career Center

Education: Masters Degree Education Administration from American College of Education

Training & Experience: SkillsUSA Ohio board of director, NCCER Master Trainer, Instructor Mentor Resident Educator Program

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

A: School funding is always the most important issue facing districts. The Administration and Board are focusing on increasing enrollment, reassigning staff and using attrition to be fiscally responsible. An example of this was the decision of the board to combine the roles of Superintendent and Elementary Principal to save the district the cost in salaries for one year. We are optimistic with the passage of HB110, funding will increase for our school and I would like to be part of the board to ensure this funding is allocated responsibly.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: As a former High School Teacher and current Assistant Director of Adult Education at Apollo Career Center with a Master's Degree in Education Administration, I believe that I have the experience necessary to help make informed and fiscal decisions that will benefit the district students and constituents. This includes the ability to think strategically, but also develop realistic plans to solve issues or capitalize on opportunities. My professional life has consistently reflected my passion for education. I am not running for another term with any preconceived notions, but rather I bring my experience to continue to help the Perry Schools and community to be the best it can be.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: The Ohio Department of Education governs what students learn through the current standards; additional standards are not required at this time. Local school boards are fully equipped with the authority to enact policy that is responsive to the needs of their community with procedures in place to allow the public to guide that policy. The concept of the proposed legislation underestimates the ability of local school boards, superintendents, principals, teachers, and parents to understand and respond to the needs of their own communities.

Brian Sidener

NO REPLY RECEIVED

Luke Taviano

NO REPLY RECEIVED

SHAWNEE SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: 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 policies.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$125/meeting



CLAY BALYEAT

Current Occupation: Attorney at Law

Education: Shawnee High School 1978 Eastern Kentucky University - BS Ohio Northern Law school - JD

Training & Experience: I have been serving on the school board for four terms. I have a lot of experience with having served on the board of education at Shawnee. I have a very practical approach with respect to handling various issues and matters which arise from time to time.

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

A: School Funding. This is a tough topic for the Shawnee taxpayers as we are considered a "wealthy" district resulting in less State funding. We are hopeful that we will be able to pass a levy permitting the District to issue bonds to fund a new building. Over the past three year, the District has been operating in the negative, causing deficit spending. Through some conservative spending, we have been able to reduce the deficit spending.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: My experience as a school board member, in addition to being a critical thinker and respecting the values of Shawnee School, provides me with the experience to be an effective board member. Also, being a trial attorney gives me the communication skills often needed under certain circumstances. I have a great respect and passion for Shawnee Schools.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I am opposed to critical race theory which is currently being taught some schools across our nation, and therefore support legislation prohibiting this divisive thinking.



SCOTT GEPHART

Current Occupation: High School Principal

Education: Bachelors of Science in Education from The Ohio State University Masters of Education from The Ohio State University Principal and Superintendent Licensure from University of Findlay

Training & Experience: 11 years as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal with the Lima City Schools / 9 years as high school principal with Spencerville Local Schools - I am also the assistant transportation director and I have my class

B CDL (allows me to drive bus for school district). I have also been the special education officer and ADA/OSHA coordinator for the district.

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

A: The single most important issue facing Shawnee Local Schools is financial stability with the potential of a multiple building bond issue in the spring. Our community is still dealing with a pandemic and building materials are at an all time high. I would work with the superintendent and treasurer to make sure the district's finances are in order before asking the voters to approve a bond issue for multiple buildings. We need to make sure our finances are ok for the long term before going back to the voters for more new money.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I have been involved in K-12 education for twenty years. I have worked as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal in a large, urban school district and for the last nine years as the principal in a small, rural district. I understand how schools operate and function from all the various stakeholders. My years of experience and knowledge would be a huge asset to the board of education.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: Knowledge is power. As a society, it is important we gather as much information as possible when making a decision. If our legislators limit what information can be taught, how do we as educators make sure we are preparing our students to be informed citizens when they graduate. We want our graduates to be informed as much as possible and be able to gather all the information they can when making an informed decision on matters. If the legislations passes, are they truly getting all the information to make an informed decision on their own?



KENNY GROSS

Current Occupation: Sales Director at Mevotech US Inc.

Education: College: The Ohio State University - 1998-2003 B.A., Criminology and Sociology Course studies included: Society, Deviant Behavior, Urbanization and Cultural Diversity High School: Shawnee High School - Graduated 1998

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

A: The most important issue facing Shawnee Local Schools is our current budget vs funds received. The district recently passed a levy where we asked for new monies. This was passed by the voters in May 2021 and we will again be on the ballot in Nov. 2021 for a renewal (no new monies). Once this passes in the fall we will again be back on the ballot in the coming year(s) for most likely a bond levy for the purpose of new school (specifically the Middle School). As a member of the B.O.E. I want to make sure that we continue to look at ways we can save money while maintaining the excellence in Shawnee that our community demands and deserves.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I grew up in Shawnee, graduated from Shawnee, 2 of my daughters graduated from Shawnee and my son is currently attending Elmwood (2nd grade). I have many friends that continue to live here and so do my parents. I am a man of faith and have what I consider a good moral compass when making decisions. I make sure to ask myself when making board decisions, how this will affect the students. I want to see to it that our decisions are going to improve the overall student experience at Shawnee and will ultimately prepare them to be upstanding members of our society. As a business professional, I look at the business aspect of things while also looking at the student experiences.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: At this time I am not in favor of either of the bills as they are written today. I believe that both take the rights away from our teaching staff and how they instruct our students. Ultimately they lose control of how they can teach Shawnee students on many topics from k-12.





Marlena Schaaf

Current Occupation: Substitute teacher
Education: BA in Education from Purdue University
Training & Experience: I have taught second grade in private schools in Florida, have been a substitute teacher in Florida, and have taught second grade in the Northmont City Schools. I am currently a substitute teacher within the Shawnee School district. I am also a head swim coach, soccer coach, and basketball coach. I have also worked in marketing for Barnett Bank in Florida and at the American Trapshooting Association in Vandalia, Ohio.

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

A: There are a number of issues facing the Shawnee School District. After speaking with teachers, administrators, and my experience substitute teaching in many classrooms the conclusion is that the main issues are communication between schools and the community, the need for substitute teachers and bus drivers, and funding. However, the most important issue is funding. Schools need funding for music, physical education, art, baking and foods, materials, aides in the classroom for children who need extra help, resource rooms, special education, technology, teachers, administrators, counselors, and many other items. Shawnee school district gets good grades on state report cards. The state of Ohio needs to start rewarding schools that are consistently doing well academically. A few other ways of addressing this issue are to commit more of the existing state budget to education, allow local taxes to provide new money for education, and House Bill 110's spending package may be helpful.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I feel that I have many strengths to bring to the board table. I have a BA in Education from Purdue University. I taught 2nd grade in private schools in Florida, 2nd grade in the Northmont City School district in Dayton, Ohio, and am substitute teaching in the Shawnee School Corporation. I have five children, two who have graduated from Shawnee and three that are currently attending Shawnee. I have been the head coach of a summer swim team for 14 years with children ages 3-18. In addition, I coach soccer and basketball. I am a familiar face within the Shawnee community. I am responsible, dedicated, caring, and passionate to do what is best for the students and community of Shawnee.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: My position on HB322 and HB327 is that I am for these House Bills. I feel that our school district should not be looking at everything from a race lens first. The teaching of "critical race theory" pits races and other classes against each other. Teaching American History is important but should not make students feel guilty based on their individual background of race, sex or nationality. House Bill 322 doesn't exclude the teaching of history. It's purpose is to make sure one side of history isn't being pushed more than another side of history. Therefore, students are critically thinking for themselves when one idea isn't being pushed more than another idea. In addition, how would classes and teachers be monitored to ensure that teaching about these topics isn't one sided? Topics could potentially be very divisive for the school and community. Classrooms should be using tax-payer dollars for instruction and not promoting or influencing a particular ideology.

Jim Kuhn

Current Occupation: Retired as of July 2021
Education: Seneca East High School, Bachelor of Science from BGSU, Masters of Science from the University of Dayton
Training & Experience: 41 years in the classroom (all at Spencerville), Coached several sports (over 25 years) all at Spencerville, Faculty Manager over 20 years(all at Spencerville)

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

A: I believe the pandemic has played a role in a problem I believe our school district is facing. When students went to remote learning, they lost socialization with other students. They also lost face-to-face contact with their teachers. As a result, a gap in their learning took place. I believe our school has already taken the initiative to resolve the learning gap problem. They have hired aids to assist the teachers. The elementary has also implemented programs such as Heggerty and Lexia to narrow the gap. In addition, I would like to see smaller class sizes, at all levels, but especially in the elementary. A smaller class size means more opportunities for one-to-one learning experiences between the student and teacher. Especially with the third-grade guarantee in place, smaller class sizes will help to not only close learning gaps, but help all students to be better prepared for success with the state tests.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I just retired this year after teaching forty-one years in the classroom. All forty-one years were at Spencerville. I am aware of how the school operates and the needs within the school. I have administrative skills, as I was the Faculty Manager for over twenty years. My responsibility, as Faculty Manager, was to supervise various sporting events in order to alleviate some of the after-school hours duties from other administrators. I am a member of Spencerville Trinity United Methodist Church where I have served on various committees and have been an administrator of the Summer Lunch Program. When a controversial issue arises, I will listen to both sides and do research on the topic so that I can make an informed, objective decision. The bottom line for my decision making will always be putting the students first.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: House Bills 322 and 327 seem to be similar in their context. They are both vague and, in my opinion, seem to have contradicting statements within their text. From my understanding of the legislation, I agree with the Ohio Council for The Social Studies' belief that the bills contain language that have the possibility of limiting classroom discussion and impairing critical thinking skills of our students. It is important for students to study relevant topics from multiple sources and make informed decisions. For that reason, I oppose both bills.

Nathan L. Pohlman



Current Occupation: VP of Marketing
Education: Bachelor of Business Administration from Tiffin University
Training & Experience: - 20+ years in business leadership - Manage a marketing team - Directly manage an \$11 million dollar marketing budget. - Volunteer with SYAA Youth Sports

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

A: The single most important issue facing my school district is the onslaught of divisive left-leaning educational programs from the federal level. The proliferation of Critical Race Theory into multiple subjects has no place in the classroom. School boards need to be vigilant to ensure the school administration makes sure that teachers and classrooms are not pulled into the divisive political atmosphere and give a high-level educational experience that isn't slanted towards anyone's political views.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I will bring multiple strengths to the board table. First, I have over 20 years of experience being a business executive and dealing with a business board of directors. Second, I have experience with managing large multi-million dollar budgets and a marketing team. I know how budgets work and the importance of staying within approved budgets. Finally, I have many years of volunteer work with the local Youth Athletic Association. I have volunteered in many functions across many different youth sports and served on the board. I have worked hand-in-hand with the school on many occasions to set up the use of the facilities. My main goal will be to see excellence in every aspect of our school, including academics, athletics, extracurriculars, and facilities. I want the Spencerville school system to be a district with a long list of excellent teachers applying for open positions and a long list of students wanting to be Bearcats.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I support Ohio HB322 and HB327. I hope that all administration and teachers are committed to being politically neutral in the classroom and concentrate on teaching kids without indoctrinating them.



SPENCERVILLE SCHOOL BOARD

Term Commences 01/01/2022 - Vote for no more than 3

Responsibilities: 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.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$125/meeting



Elizabeth Klaus

Current Occupation: Retired
Education: Associates Degree in Accounting/Business

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

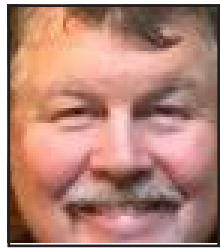
A: Guaranteeing that all children in our district are taught the truth about what it means to be an American and to leave the issues that are to be taught by the family to the family. The schools job is to teach children reading, writing, arithmetic, real history and English (and other languages as per the students request). Schools should not be indoctrinating children in any ideals. The issues that deal with morality and personal belief systems are those that are to be taught by the family unit. To address these issues I would like to request information on books being introduced into the libraries, as well as the books that are already there. I would also like to work closely with our superintendent to go over the materials that are being used while teaching our children. I hope to encourage parents and others in the community to be active in the lives of our students and the school to be able to support each student as they grow and learn.

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I feel my biggest strength is that I am saved by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Because of my belief I have a heart for our children and our community. I am responsible to a higher power than any on this earth and because of this I will do my best to ensure that every child is nurtured to become who they were made to be. We as adults are to lead by example and to do this we must watch over what is being put into our children's minds and stand up for them when what we see does not line up with our personal beliefs.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: I totally support both of these bills as they relate to topics dealing with race, sex, slavery, bias and controversial issues. As I stated in question #1, the school is to teach the basics to our children. Issues such as race, sex, nationality, color, and ethnicity are divisive and should not be in our schools. Divisive concepts are exactly the types of concepts that we need to fight to keep out of every school in America.



Clarke Prichard

Current Occupation: retired

Education: Graduate of Bath High School: Attended Northwestern University majoring in chemical engineering: Graduate of Ohio University BSIT: Masters in Administration from Bowling Green State University

Training & Experience: Teacher and coach at Spencerville Schools from 1987-2000. Teacher at Allen East Local Schools from 2000-2020. Taught Industrial Tech, AutoCAD, and computer science for 33 yrs. Coached football, basketball and track while teaching at Spencerville Schools.

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

A: Covid and government mandates have caused a great deal of animosity within our school districts. The invasion of these two into our school systems has smothered our overlying goals and it threatens to divert attention from the true focus of educating our students. As a board member, it is important to remember who we are as a community and what are core values are. Mandates go out to every school but because each school system and their demographics are different, implementation should vary. At Spencerville, we take pride in our school and we have found success in what we do. A public school system's role has always been to provide a safe learning environment for the students. In addition, the role of public school is to enable a student to gain a knowledge base that will establish lifelong learning patterns that can enable them to make educated personal choices throughout their life. We want students that can think for themselves!

Q: What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

A: I have experience as a teacher, a parent, and a multi-level coach at Spencerville schools. I have my Masters Degree in Administration. My 33 year experience as a teacher gives me unique insight that most board members don't have the opportunity to draw upon. In addition, I've lived in the district for over 20 years. All four of my children have graduated from Spencerville Schools. I will actively listen to concerns from the community. When I make decisions, I evaluate all the available information and make a decision that I feel is best for our students, school, and community. I don't believe hidden agendas or egos have any place on a school board.

Q: What is your position on Ohio HB322 and HB327, as proposed by the Ohio House, which if passed, will have an impact on K-12 as well as higher educational institutions?

A: The goal of these two bills, on a simplified level, is to ban the promotion of ideologies. Education should be used to help students think for themselves. It is my belief as a former teacher, I should never try to influence how a student thinks about a subject. I should merely provide facts, answer questions, and then allow the student to make their own informed decision. In our school system at Spencerville, these two bills will have no impact on how our school currently operations. As for other school systems, if they try to dictate or influence the beliefs of their students they could lose funding from the State.



**ON ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 2**

2021 GENERAL ELECTION ISSUES

Bath, Local Liquor Option For Particular Location (By Petition) (Sunday Sales) Bath F

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the sale of beer, wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by 19 Hawthorne LLC, d.b.a. Hawthorne Hills Event Center, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit who is engaged in the business of an event center at 1000 Fetter Road, Lima, OH 45801 in this precinct?

Bath Local School District Property Tax (Renewal - 3.25 mills)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Bath Local School District for the purpose of permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 3.25 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.325 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

Village of Harrod Property Tax (Renewal - 4.05 mills, 5 years)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Village of Harrod for the purpose of current operating expenses at a rate not exceeding 5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.50 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023. Perry Township Proposed Property Tax (Renewal-1 mills, 5 years)

Perry Township Proposed Property Tax (Renewal-1 mills, 5 years)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Perry Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or firefighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of the firefighter employers' contribution required under section 742.34 of the revised code, or the purchase of ambulance equipment, or the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company at a rate not exceeding 1.5mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.15 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

Perry Township - Property Tax (Renewal - 1.5 mills, 5 years)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Perry Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or firefighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of the firefighter employers' contribution required under section 742.34 of the revised code, or the purchase of ambulance equipment, or the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company at a rate not exceeding 1.5mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.15 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

Perry Local Schools-Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal - 1.5 mills, 5 years)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Perry Local School District for the purpose of permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.15 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

Shawnee Township Property Tax (Renewal-1.5 mills, 5)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Shawnee Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph, or the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or firefighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of the firefighter employers' contribution required under section 742.34 of the revised code, or the purchase of ambulance equipment, or the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.15 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

Shawnee Township Property Tax (Additional - 4.5 mills)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of Shawnee Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings or sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm communications, for the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighters or firefighting companies to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the revised code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs at a rate not exceeding 4.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.45 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

Shawnee Local School District - EMERGENCY- Property Tax (Renewal)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Shawnee Local School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$2,880,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average 5.997 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.5997 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 10 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

Spencerville Local District - Allen, Auglaize and Van Wert Counties - Proposed Income Tax (Renewal)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall an annual income tax of 1% on the school district income of individuals and of estates be imposed by the Spencerville Local School District to renew an income tax expiring at the end of 2022, for 5 years, beginning January 1, 2023, for the purpose of current expenses?

Lima City School District Property Tax (Renewal-1.5 mills)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage. A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Lima City School District for the purpose of general permanent improvements and current expenses at a rate not exceeding 5.99 mills (1.5 mills of which is allocated to general permanent improvements and 4.49 mills of which is allocated to current operating expenses) for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.599 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

Lima 7A - Local Option (By Petition) For a Particular Location (Sunday Sales)

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 Eats Holding, LLC Doing Business As Fricker's, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit, who is engaged in the business of operating a full-service family restaurant, sports bar, and place to gather at 2550 Allentown Rd., Lima, OH 45805 in this precinct?





VOTE!

A Moment in Suffrage History

Wyoming was not only the first state to grant women the right to vote, it also was the first state to elect a female governor, electing Nellie Tayloe Ross to that post in 1924. Ross was elected after being nominated for governor in a special election following the sudden death of her husband, William Ross, who died from complications of an appendectomy less than two years into his term. Wyoming granted full voting rights to women in 1869, 21 years before it was even granted statehood. 1869 proved to be a groundbreaking year with regard to voting rights, as it was in February of 1869 that Congress proposed an amendment that would ban voting restrictions on the basis of race, color or previous servitude. That amendment would not be ratified for nearly 12 months, but would still precede the 19th Amendment, which granted American women the right to vote, by half a century. Among those credited with fighting hard for women's suffrage in the United States are Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Susan B. Anthony, none of whom would ultimately live long enough to see the 19th Amendment passed.

*On June 16, 1919, Ohio voted to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment.

**The League of Women Voters of the
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the following individuals
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make it possible
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*There were additional donors who wish to remain anonymous

You may go to VOTE411.org to find information on local issues and candidates who responded after our publication date.

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.lwv-lima.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.

Your **tax deductible** contribution can be made payable to: **LWV – Education Fund**

**Mail to: LWV Treasurer
4367 Shawnee Rd.
Lima, OH 45806**