League of Women Voters of Marion, Ohio

2021 VOTER GUIDE

P.O. Box 752, Marion, Ohio 43301-0752

Presented by: The Marion Star

GENERAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

League of Women Voters of Marion, Ohio publishes this information to neither endorse nor reject the views of any candidate, nor to promote or campaign against any of the issues.

League selected the questions and sent questionnaires to contested candidates. Candidates were informed that their responses would be printed unedited, exactly as submitted and that each candidate would be solely responsible for the content of his/her reply. Responses to questions were cut if the candidate exceeded the word limit.

League did not correct or change any candidate responses.

This publication has been issued by the League of Women Voters of Marion to provide a forum for all candidates. We thank the candidates who responded to our questionnaires and made this publication possible.

The printing and distribution of this Voter Guide is funded by generous contributions to the League of Women Voters of Marion, Ohio with assistance from The Marion Star.
MARION CITY TREASURER
One to be elected – Term: 4 years – Salary: $7,300

THOMAS PANNETT
ADDRESS: 681 Brightwood Dr. Marion Ohio 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: City Treasurer
PARTY: Democrat
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

BS Degree West Liberty University: Masters Degree West Virginia University: Administrative Certification for the State of Ohio Fiscal Integrity Act Certified - CPIM Certification 13 [exceeded word limit]
What three qualities do you have that best prepare you for the job of city treasurer? (30 word limit)
The three qualities that best prepare me to serve as your City Treasurer are: Integrity, Honesty and Fiscal Responsibility......
What do you see as the top challenges facing the Treasurer's office and what actions would you take to overcome these challenges? (100 word limit)
The top challenge for the Treasurer is balancing the city's budget. Tracking the people's money. Simply put: input is covered by output..... These money matters are becoming more and more critical as insurance contracts are negotiated as union contracts become mature and the ever-ending task of running a city on rubber roads and legislative rulings of which we oftentimes have no control. My professional contribution is prudent investments of the people's money.

TOMMY REESE
ADDRESS: 1049 Richmond Avenue, Marion, OH 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired corrections officer, currently serving as Interim Pastor/Lead Elder at Solid Rock Church of God In Christ
PARTY: Republican
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Degree in Human Social Service with additional earlier courses in accounting, Work in finance, industry and corrections, and served as district treasurer of our churches.
What three qualities do you have that best prepare you for the job of city treasurer? (30 word limit)
Integrity, commitment and work that supports the people's vision. Organization, time management and being detail-oriented are key to preparing reports and presentations while also ensuring completion of required ongoing work.
What do you see as the top challenges facing the Treasurer's office and what actions would you take to overcome these challenges? (100 word limit)
The treasurer's office is responsible for timely and thorough accounting of transactions and business operations of the City of Marion. The first challenge requires working together and honest, concise and clear communication will be required. It will be challenging to understand duties of the office and the laws, regulations and practices required. This will require relationship building with key contacts while fostering a cooperative work environment. It will be a challenge to create and maintain an environment for ongoing learning and understanding of processes and procedures that affect decisions. Commitment with patience and perseverance will be key.

Ohio Voter Alert
Take your correct ID to the polls!
All except Military ID must show your address.

Examples:
* A government photo ID (Ohio Driver's License or State ID showing either your current or former address, as long as the ID has not expired)
* Military ID
* Copy of a recent utility bill
* Bank statement
* Paycheck
* Government check
* Government document showing your name and address.

Note: If you are a registered voter, but don't have any acceptable form of ID at the polls, you still have a right to cast a provisional ballot.

Election information: Marion County Board of Elections at 740-223-4090 or www.marionvotes.com

Early Voting Alert
You can vote early from October 5th through Monday, November 1st
to Vote by Mail request a ballot
call Marion County Board of Elections 740-223-4090
see details at VoteOhio.gov
or Vote Early in Person at Marion County Building:
222 West Church Street, Marion, Ohio 43302 (main floor)

2021 In Person Early Voting Schedule

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday to Friday, October 5 to October 8</td>
<td>8:00 am to 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday to Friday, October 12 to October 15</td>
<td>8:00 am to 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday to Friday, October 19 to October 22</td>
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<td>Tuesday to Friday, October 25 to October 29</td>
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<td>Saturday, October 30</td>
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<td>Sunday, October 31</td>
<td>1:00 pm to 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 1</td>
<td>8:00 am to 2:00 pm</td>
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League of Women Voters marionleague@yahoo.com
CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE
Three to be elected – Term: 2 years – Salary: $7,300

CHARLES RICHARD ARNDT
ADDRESS: 410 Clover Avenue Marion, Ohio
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired Educator
PARTY: Running as Write In Candidate
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE:
(25 word limit)
Graduated: Marion Harding H.S. Capital University, B.A., in Education St. Francis University, M.A. BGSU, Ed.S. and Ph.D. Experience: Teacher, Administrator: 28 years College, University: Director, Dean: [exceeded word limit]

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
1. Support our public servants to eliminate, to the best of our ability, any and all, criminal activity occurring in Marion or affecting our citizens. Not all issues can be eradicated immediately, but all must be addressed as necessary. 2. Continue by increasing our city’s efforts to clean up our neighborhoods in both appearance and safety. This will increase attractiveness for the entire city. 3. Continue all efforts to grow the Marion economy including, but not limited to, manufacturing, retail, and tourism, by maintaining and improving what we have now and developing what we need to become a regional center for retail and tourism.

BRETT CORNELIUS
ADDRESS: 458 Windsor St. Marion, Ohio 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Pastor, Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Marion
PARTY: Republican
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE:
(25 word limit)
I’m a 1980 graduate of Pleasant High School. I trained for the ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary. I have been a pastor since 2004.

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
City Council can do three things that would benefit the voters of Marion. First, finish the work of repairing our outdated sewer system. In its present condition, it has cost Marion residents huge sums in repairs and replacement of appliances damaged by reoccurring sewer backup. City Council can broaden their approaches to getting the system repaired quickly. The city of Marion needs a charter. As a statutory city, a good deal of how the government runs is determined by those who live outside our community. A city charter would give Marion home rule. As a city council member, I would help begin the process of adopting a charter. City Council, with other local leaders, should defend its citizens when federal and state overreach tramples our natural rights.

MIKE THOMAS
ADDRESS: 341 Pennsylvania Ave. Marion
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired after 37 years at GTE/Verizon
PARTY: Democrat
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE:
(25 word limit)
Graduated from Harding High School 1961. 20 years on City Council
Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
1. Marion City Auditor’s Office- the problem of the use of unappropriated funds has been sent by resolution to the State Auditor’s Office. 2. As Chairman of the Streets and Sewers Committee we will continue to fund the repair and maintenance of our city streets and alleys. 3. Legislative, Codes and Regulations Committee, I will continue to look for funding, and to work with the City, as well as the County on alleviating the problem of abandoned and dilapidated structures.
CITY COUNCIL 1ST WARD
One to be elected – Term: 2 years – Salary: $7,300

KAI MEADE
ADDRESS: 1207 Bahama Dr. Marion, OH
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Legal Assistant, Law Student, and City Councilman
PARTY: Democratic Party
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
Bachelor’s degree in Political Science, extensive history in community organizing, board member for Marion Economic Dev. group CAN-DO and Downtown Inc.

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
The first thing that Marion City Council can do is continue to clean up our neighborhoods through the community clean ups that I started in the 1st Ward. The second issue is one that ties into our neighborhoods as well. The city must tear down more fire damaged structures. This can be done by the council passing my third issue. I am bringing to council a Marion Reinvestment Act that uses the federal ARPA dollars to tear down fire damaged structures, address speeding in our neighborhoods, provide new life to some of our parks, give our first responders resources they need, replace broken ditch tiles, and finally continue to clean up our neighborhood. This is an investment in our families that will help us build a better Marion.

CITY COUNCIL 2ND WARD
One to be elected – Term: 2 years – Salary: $7,300

PAMELA LARKIN
ADDRESS: 154 Council St Marion, Ohio
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired
PARTY: [Candidate did not provide]
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
I have held various blue collar jobs, and done fundraising for organizations. I have lived in this Ward since 1983 and seen the neglect Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
First would be blighted houses. I would fight to get the unrepairable torn down and repairable sold with restrictions. Sewer/flooding. Fight to get the ditches cleaned out first, then work on a solution to stop the sewers workable and the flooding stopped. All Wards treated with the same respect and abilities. Thru the years I have seen the 2nd Ward treated differently, neglected, and ignored. These constituents pay their taxes the same as other Wards. Council should work together to make the city as good as possible.

AYERS RATLIFF
ADDRESS: 411 Oak Street, Marion, Ohio 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Marion City Councilman; Director of Racing Communications for MGM; Income Tax Professional
PARTY: Democrat
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
The Ohio State University; Current Second Ward City Councilman; raising a family in Marion; I am the more knowledgeable, experienced and energetic candidate

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
I have consistently secured investment in our neighborhoods. The 2ND Ward parks, streets, sidewalks and alleys are in much better condition than when I took office. In addition, numerous blighted homes and dangerous trees have been eliminated. The 2ND Ward has received an unprecedented amount of investment. Community investments must continue to happen for our 2ND Ward. Marion Citizens deserve fiscal responsibility. However, our City Auditor’s incompetence is leading to catastrophic outcomes for our tax dollars and services. Without proper bookkeeping and allowing Marion City audits to remain in good standing, our eligibility to receive grants and loans will be eliminated. The ability to receive grants and loans will negatively affect our Police and Fire Departments, Municipal Court, Probation Department, Marion Area Transit, Airport and eliminate future sewer projects.
CITY COUNCIL 4TH WARD
One to be elected – Term: 2 years – Salary: $7,300

JOSHUA FELICIANO
ADDRESS: 495 Olney Avenue Marion, Ohio 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: 4th Ward City Councilman
PARTY: Republican
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Proudly, I have been a part of the Marion Community for over 45 years, and have raised my family here. Graduate of Harding High School [exceeded word limit]

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)

No. 1 The Flooding Issue: a. As 4th Ward Councilman I would continue to work with the administration to make available the current plan for sewage restoration and keep all residents informed of those who are interested in the progress. b. Continue to revisit the flooding issues and monitor the situation for progress during city council meetings every few months. No. 2 To Bring Back Pride: I believe I can help make our Community great. I have lived here over 45 years and I know that the [people in Marion are good people. I believe we can bring back the pride and family values that this community once had. Values must be #1 in our lives and shown thru the way we live. No. 3 Working Together to Better our City: [exceeded word limit]

CITY COUNCIL 5TH WARD
One to be elected – Term: 2 years – Salary: $7,300

TARA DYER
ADDRESS: 485 N. Grand Ave. Marion, Oh 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Semi-retired/Marion Mentors Supervisor at Grant Middle School
PARTY: Democrat
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

BA Defiance College, MA The Ohio State University
Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)

Let’s address housing (specifically blight and beautification), and focus on youth homelessness, and youth activities. If elected, I would study creative strategies that utilize programs to restore salvageable properties. "Umija: Blight to Beauty - for example, is one such project being implemented on the west side. This is an area that is in need of a makeover and our government can be key. A community project such as this involves creating housing for low- moderate income residents, the creation of a community garden, and neighborhood revitalization. This "template" can provide a guide that can be utilized throughout our city. Our efforts should also be focused on providing a safe space for our youth, i.e. a youth center as well as a facility to address youth homelessness in our city.

DANA HANIF-BUOKER
ADDRESS: 235 Thew Ave., Marion OH 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Volunteer Coordinator for Heartland Hospice/Promedica
PARTY: Democrat
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Graduate of EMU with a BS. YMCA, Family Program Director, Volunteer Coordinator for Heartland Hospice. Trustee board member, for the Marion Public Library.
Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)

1. Clean and Safe neighborhoods. The "City of Marion Love our Neighborhoods" initiative has been very successful and well received by the community. If elected I will work with administration by providing resources, materials and volunteers. 2. Streets and Sewers. Sewage back up is an issue in our City. Our city has been busy making improvements and are following a program from the EPA. If elected I will work with City Council and City Administration to tackle ways to prevent citizens from future sewage flooding while the EPA improvements are underway. 3. Economic Development. Marion is a great place to live and work. If elected I will work to make sure our city continues to grow jobs and have affordable housing. I will build relationships with landlords [exceeded word limit]

KAREN S. FOSNAUGH
ADDRESS: 225 S Sefner Ave., Marion, OH 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired Registered Nurse.
Currently appointed 5th ward Marion City Council
PARTY: [Candidate did not provide]
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)

Marion continues to struggle with blight and abandoned homes with increased crime, rodents, fire, and decrease in property value. Continued work with the landbank to address this ongoing issue. Council can be a voice to administration to help finance this with federal grant money. Continued work with the director of streets and sewers to evaluate the next step in alleviating the constant flooding and damage to personal property. Including education as to what steps homeowners can take to decrease sewer backup, and investigating ways the city can assist financially. Marion needs a fulltime arborist to handle the issue of trees that have become a danger to neighborhoods destroying the sidewalks, personal property or taking down electric lines. A fulltime arborist opens the city to grants and programs to help maintain [exceeded word limit]
CITY COUNCIL 6TH WARD
One to be elected – Term: 2 years – Salary: $7,300

MIKE NEFF
ADDRESS: 851 E. Center Street
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Electrical Inspector II - City of Westerville
PARTY: Republican
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
Marion Tech A.A. Business 2017  Electrical Safety Inspector (Ohio) Electrical Contractor (Ohio) Current President I.A.E.I. (Central Ohio Division) Volunteer work: Buckeye Ridge Habitat for Humanity [exceeded word limit]

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
Fight the Blight: Promote the continuation of the Marion City/County CHIP grant to offer a financial option for home repairs. Implement a Vacant Building Registration to identify vacant homes and the responsible party for each building. This ordinance will help track properties to keep them safe, secure, and reduce the nuisance to the neighborhood. Enforce the Residential Code of Ohio: Every day that we do not enforce the Code, our housing stock is at risk for further damage. With the absence of a certified building department, safety is compromised with less than minimum standards. Facilitate a City Charter: Work with all Councilors to lead toward self government. This would be tailored to our community, approved by the voters, and signal the rebranding of OUR City.

KATHY L. SWANGER
ADDRESS: 1082 Wilshire Dr., Marion, OH 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Instructional Technology Consultant, Marion City Schools
PARTY: Democrat
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
Bachelor's in Education, Bowling Green State University (1985); Master's in Guidance and School Counseling, University of Toledo (1991). 36 year career in public education

Of the issues facing Marion that City Council can do something about, which are the three most important. And, if elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (130 word limit)
Marion’s citizens deserve fiscal responsibility to protect hard-earned tax dollars. This requires competency through monitoring to ensure we maintain our bond rating and continue to receive state and federal grants to support our police and fire departments. Repairing our street and sewer system is essential for Marion. Paving streets and implementing the EPA approved sewer plan is vital for the 6th ward and city. Taxpayers deserve that we preserve this funding in a responsible manner. Finally, continuing to address abandoned and blighted houses in Marion. The Love Our Neighborhoods Program is a good start to clean abandoned properties but we need cooperation with the city and county officials, plus the land bank to do more. I will always put the people of Marion first, not politics.

MARION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
Two to be elected – Term: 4 years – Salary: $13,612

BEN CREASAP
ADDRESS: 501, Susan Circle, Marion, Ohio 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Retired from Whirlpool, Real Estate Sales, Showcase
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
Graduate River Valley HS, Mansfield Business College, Marion Technical, Hondros College of Real Estate

Of the issues facing Marion Township that Township Trustees can do something about, which are the three most important. If elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (100 word limit)
Drainage Issues, Road maintenance, and Distressed Properties seem to be the things I see as issues. If elected I would work with other Trustees to Expedite solutions to these situations. These solutions would have both budget and manpower considerations.
How will you communicate with Marion Township residents to keep them informed? (30 word limit)
Township Meetings, personal phone calls, and possibly social media would all be avenues of communication.

KAREN S. McCLEARY
ADDRESS: 1145 Yorkshire Drive  Yorkshire Estates  Marion, OH 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: MARION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, Incumbent  Registered Nurse, MAPP Adolescent Health Coordinator  Help Me Grow, Central Coordinator
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
RV & MTC Graduate  12 years, Marion Township Trustee  12 years, RV School Board Boards; TRCC Nurse & Paramedic Advisory, EMA, Regional Planning, MPH DAC.

Of the issues facing Marion Township that Township Trustees can do something about, which are the three most important. If elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (100 word limit)
1. Focus on nuisance, problem properties with high grass, junk motor vehicles and dilapidated buildings, making the property owners take responsibility for cleanup. 2. Continue a proactive, team approach for evaluating and improving neighborhood water drainage, replacing older road tile as necessary. Government grant monies are available, and we continue to apply for such grants. 3. Research creative funding options for firehouse relocation to East side Township property, ultimately reducing ISO insurance ratings. An East fire station would better position our EMS units for dispatch to the North, East and South borders of Marion Township for our homeowners and businesses.
How will you communicate with Marion Township residents to keep them informed? (30 word limit)
I encourage residents to visit our improved website; mariontwp.org for meeting minutes, announcements and to download Zoning applications. We post special announcements and events on our Marion Township Facebook page.

Continued on page 7
LYNN A. THOMAS
ADDRESS: 510 Eveningside Circle, Marion, Ohio 43302
CURRENT OCCUPATION: Marion Township Trustee
YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
2018-Present: Marion Township Trustee; Previously served as a Marion County commissioner and Chief Deputy County Auditor.
Of the issues facing Marion Township that Township Trustees can do something about, which are the three most important. If elected, what would you do to deal with these issues? (100 word limit)
1.) Managing an overall annual budget of $6,000,000.00.  2.) Continually being able to work together and build relationship with all other government leaders in order to create over-all efficiency in managing your tax dollars.  3.) Being accessible when constituents call knowing what to do to address their concerns and bring them to a conclusion.
How will you communicate with Marion Township residents to keep them informed?: (30 word limit)
Marion Township is in the process of completing a new web site which we will be expedient in publishing our meeting minutes and a quarterly newsletter of our activities.

DONORS
League of Women Voters of Marion, Ohio is so grateful for generous donors who help make our work possible. We thank:

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