

# 2020 LORAIN COUNTY VOTER GUIDE

## GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 3, 2020

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The information in this Guide was gathered from a number of League sources as well as the website [judicialvotescount.org](http://judicialvotescount.org). All candidate information has been submitted by the candidates themselves and has not been corrected or edited except to comply with length limits.

Because of space limitations, this printed guide may not include the answers to all questions asked of the candidates. It includes all responses received by 9/18/2020. To view the complete Voter Guide including all questions, candidates, and issues tailored to your voting address, please go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

The League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area (LWVOA) is grateful to numerous individual donors who supported the publication of the printed and online Voter Guides with donations to the LWVOA Education Fund. We also thank the LWV of the US, LWV of Ohio and various local Ohio Leagues for gathering information. Additional information in the Issues Section was obtained by volunteers from LWVOA.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

#### **League of Women Voters of Ohio**

Phone: (614) 469-1505  
Email: [lwvinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvinfo@lwvohio.org)  
Web: [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)

#### **League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area**

Email: [lwvoberlin@gmail.com](mailto:lwvoberlin@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.oberlinarea.org](http://www.oberlinarea.org)

#### **Ohio Secretary of State**

Phone: Elections Department (614) 466-2655  
Toll-Free: SOS-Ohio (877) 767-6446  
TTY: (614) 466-0562  
TTY Toll-free: (877) 644-6889  
Web: [www.sos.state.oh.us](http://www.sos.state.oh.us) (search under Elections and Voting)

#### **Lorain County Board of Elections**

Main Line - (440) 326-5900  
Campaign Finance - (440) 326-5949  
Voter Registration - (440) 326-5901  
Absentee Voting - (440) 326-5948



### VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

Ohio accepts a wide variety of documents for voter ID purposes:

A driver's license or state ID card with your name and photo, issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The card must be current (not expired), but it can have an old address.

A U.S. Military ID with your name and photo (address not required).

A government ID with your name, current address, and photo. Note that neither a student ID nor a passport is accepted.

An original or copy of one of the following current documents that shows your name and current address: utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank

statement, pay stub, government check, or other government document. The document must have a date within one year of Election Day to be accepted as current.

If you do not have any of the above, you may use the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. You will have to vote a provisional ballot, but it will be counted so long as the number matches your voter registration. Be sure to complete all fields on the provisional ballot form.

Don't wait until Election Day. Plan ahead to make sure you have an acceptable form of ID to vote.

### **Voter Registration Deadline**

October 5 - 8am to 9pm

### **In-Person Absentee Voting Hours**

10/6 – 10/9 8am to 5pm  
10/12 – 10/16 8am to 5pm  
10/19 – 10/23 8am to 5pm  
Saturday 10/24 8am to 4 pm  
Sunday 10/25 1 to 5pm  
10/26 – 10/30 8am to 5pm  
Saturday 10/31 8am to 4pm  
Sunday 11/1 1 to 5pm  
11/2 8am to 2pm

Call 440-326-5900

### **To confirm In-Person Absentee Voting Hours.**

In-Person Absentee Voting takes place at the Lorain County Board of Elections  
1985 North Ridge Rd. East  
Lorain, OH 44055

# PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**JOE BIDEN (KAMALA HARRIS: VP) (D)**

**Campaign Instagram:**

<http://www.instagram.com/joebiden/>

**Campaign YouTube:**

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWNpXitY8eJ-ku6M-v25MKw>

**Campaign Address:** Biden for President

PO Box 58174

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

**Facebook Page:** JoeBiden

**Twitter:** [@joebiden](https://twitter.com/joebiden)

**Website:** <http://www.joebiden.com>

**DONALD TRUMP (MIKE PENCE: VP) (R)**

**Campaign Website**<http://www.donaldtrump.com/>

**Campaign Email**[info@donaldtrump.com](mailto:info@donaldtrump.com)

**Campaign**

**Facebook**<http://www.facebook.com/DonaldTrump/>

**Campaign Twitter** [@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)

**Campaign**

**Instagram**<http://www.instagram.com/teamtrump/>

**Campaign**

**YouTube**<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAqI2DyGU2un1Ei2nMYsqOA>

**HOWIE HAWKINS (GR)** - No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.

**JO JORGENSEN (LIB)** - No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.

**QUESTION 1:** *What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?*

**BIDEN:** It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost

caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

**TRUMP:** *Candidate did not respond.*

**QUESTION 2:** *What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?*

**BIDEN:** Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

**TRUMP:** *Candidate did not respond.*

**QUESTION 3:** *How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?*

**BIDEN:** America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

**TRUMP:** *Candidate did not respond.*

**QUESTION 4:** *What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?*

**BIDEN:** My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our

values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

**TRUMP:** *Candidate did not respond.*

**QUESTION 5:** *What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?*

**BIDEN:** This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

**TRUMP:** *Candidate did not respond.*

## U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 4

**SHANNON M. FRESHOUR (D)**

**Education:** Civil Litigation Paralegal for 20+ years, B.A. in Political Science and Art History, M.A. in American Government.

**Campaign Address:** 454 E Town St. Columbus, OH 43215

**JIM JORDAN (R)**

**Education:** Graham High School, B.S, Economics, University of Wisconsin; M.A. Education, The Ohio State University; J.D. Capital University Law School

**Campaign Address:** Urbana, Ohio

**STEVE PERKINS (L)****Education:** B.S.

in Technology Education from BGSU. Twenty plus years as an educator. I have conducted classes in over 45 states.  
**Campaign Address:** 7352 Palmer Rd. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

**QUESTION 1:** *Given our experiences with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow safe, secure elections whereby voters are not choosing between their health and their right to vote, especially in November? Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.*

**FRESHOUR:** Ohio should be using election security funds given through the CARES ACT to mail, pre-paid ballots to all registered voters and have a robust early voting program to ensure the maximum number of people can participate in this election. Additionally, every county in Ohio should have multiple secure drop boxes, located in areas of greatest need. For a longer-term solution, I support automatic voter registration and restoration of the Voting Rights Act to full strength.

**JORDAN:** We Ohioans have ample opportunity to safely cast our vote, including a 30-day window to vote by mail. I trust state and local officials will take every precaution and implement the proper procedures to make sure that in-person early voting and in-person election day voting will be safe for everyone as well. State and local elected officials are also in the best position to decide if additional funding is needed to execute these plans.

**PERKINS:** Both major parties want to exploit Covid for political gain. Safety is not the concern of either. Libertarians were repeatedly denied injunctive relief in court to keep us from having to engage the public to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures during a pandemic to be on the ballot. Outside of social distancing at polling locations, this is the LAST year we should tamper with the process. We far more need to ensure its validity.

**QUESTION 2:** *What policies and actions will you promote to pursue social and racial justice in our country?*

**FRESHOUR:** Although no policy or law can change hearts and minds of those committed to supporting racism, we have a requirement implement anti-discrimination laws and policy that punish racism in all aspects from health care to financial lending to police reform. There must be actionable punishments for embedding racism in society. We also need to develop anti-racism education

programs in schools and all other aspects of broaden our understanding of the American experience.

**JORDAN:** America must strive to be a country where all citizens, created equally in God's image, have the freedom and opportunity to pursue their dreams under a system of limited government where individuals are protected by equal opportunity and equal justice under the law. Much of my work in Congress is in pursuit of these ideals: personal freedom, economic opportunity, limited government, equal opportunity, and equal justice. These principles will help secure social and racial justice.

**PERKINS:** Police need to be accountable to the same laws they enforce, not be above them. Qualified Immunity must end as it puts officers above the law. No-knock raids endanger not only the public, but police officers themselves. Police brutality is not a SOCIAL justice issue, it's a BASIC justice issue. It affects minority communities disproportionately, largely due to the ineffective, costly war on drugs in which the "cure" is worse than the disease. worse than the disease.

## U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 7

**BOB GIBBS (R)** - *No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.*

**BRANDON LAPE (L)****Education:** Associate of Science - Information Technology and Networking**Training and Experience:****Age:** 38**Facebook Page:** LapeforOhio**Twitter:** @LapeforOhio**Campaign Address:** 18150 Moniger Rd Danville, OH 43014**Website:** <http://LapeforOhio.com>**QUENTIN POTTER (D)****Education:** The Ohio State University, B.S. Education**Training and Experience:** Commissions Chair, Ohio Office of Budget and Management, Jul 2015 - Jan 2019 Vice President and Treasurer, Lorain County Community College, Jan 2011 - June 2014 Chief Financial Officer, Ohio Depart. of Administrative Services, March 2007 - Jan 2011**Age:** 64**Facebook Page:** QuentinPotterforCongress**Twitter:** [@quentinforoh7th](https://twitter.com/@quentinforoh7th)**Campaign Address:** P. O. Box 2313 N. Canton, OH 44720**Website:** <http://www.quentinpotterforcongress.com>

**QUESTION 1:** *Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for safe, secure elections when in-person voting is hazardous or difficult for a large number of people? Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.*

**LAPE:** I think people wearing masks, social distancing, and washing their hands is plenty of safety. I like Ohio Secretary of State's use of curb side voting for those that may need it. The primary election was a nightmare. You don't shut down polling locations on the 11th hour the day before an election. We will be safe, we will be orderly, and we will have the opportunity to cast our vote in person.

**POTTER:** The spread of COVID-19 continues unabated in the absence of consistent federal planning and policy. After months of Trump/Republican wishful thinking and confusing messaging, the country still lacks the robust testing and tracking program and coordinated resource distribution that would better manage the disease. Federal funds targeted to assuring protective equipment in polling locations for both workers and voters, secure early voting opportunities (including in person and ballot drop boxes), and a fully funded and efficient postal system would reassure voters that their votes will be counted. Such efforts are not only opposed by Trump and enabling Republicans but actively undermined. We can assure safe and secure elections consistent with local control but supported by federal funds.

**QUESTION 2:** *Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems.*

**LAPE:** I used to think I was a Republican. Then I realized I didn't agree with their Principles. I found the Libertarian Party best matches how I feel a free country should operate. A Libertarian can appeal to both Republican and Democratic voters. With a Libertarian candidate, Republicans get fiscal responsibility and protection of the second amendment. With a Libertarian candidate, Democrats get civil liberties like ending civil asset forfeiture, ending mandatory minimum sentencing, ending no knock warrants, ending the war on drugs, and ending qualified immunity. Republican and Democratic candidates have caused the current state of our country. They use

specific issues to divide and conquer the mass population. Libertarians run for office to give voters an option to vote out career politicians.

**POTTER:** My entire career in state government involved working with members of both political parties. The best example is my role as a Executive Director of the Ohio Administrative Study Council, a year-long project to reform Ohio's Medicaid program. I worked with both legislative caucuses, Council members representing both parties as well as all interested constituencies to develop a plan for establishing and organizing a new Cabinet level agency. The plan, delivered on time, under budget, and with the unanimous support of all members, became the basis for the creation of an independent Ohio Department of Medicaid in 2012.

**QUESTION 3:** *What solutions do you propose to address challenges, especially inequities, in the healthcare system?*

**LAPE:** Inequities in the healthcare system exist because of Government involvement. Government regulation is the cause of additional red tape and reporting requirements that drive up healthcare costs. We need Government removed from both the Healthcare and Insurance industries. I mention the insurance industry as we need to open insurance market across state lines to promote competition. Competition will lead to better pricing and coverage for the consumer. We also need to address Social Security by offering an Opt-out option. This way everyone can keep more of what they earn. Social Security funds have been misappropriated for far too long. It is time to give the people back control of their own retirement plans and allow them to invest in the private market.

**POTTER:** The first step is to turn back Republican efforts to overturn the Affordable Care Act, including the protection of equitable coverage for those with preexisting conditions and continuing coverage for adult children up to the age of 27. Next, we must continue to work to contain cost and expand access; two specific examples are to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices directly and to create a public option - free from for-profit incentives - under the ACA. The disparities that exist in the health care system should be recognized and addressed by assuring access to providers in underserved areas (rural and urban). Policies that support the social determinants of health (such as disparities in housing, education, and access to healthy food and activity) must be pursued as well.

## U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 9

**MARCY KAPTUR (D)**

**MCKENZIE LEVINDOFSKE (WRITE-IN)  
ROB WEBER (R)**

*No information was received from these candidates before the print deadline. Please go to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) after September 30<sup>th</sup> to view any responses received.*



## STATE REPRESENTATIVE 55<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**GALE L. MANNING (R)** - *No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.*

**DALE STEIN (WRITE-IN)** - *No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.*

**ZACH STEPP (D)**

**Education:** Saint Ignatius High School, University of Chicago, B.A.

**Training and Experience:** As a public sector consultant, I am trained to use data analytics to solve problems for government clients. I have analyzed budgets in excess of \$50b and have worked with numerous clients in the federal government to optimize procurement operations. I've managed campaigns, restaurants, and large volunteer driven organizations. Most recently, I served as the campaign manager for a US Congressional campaign with a budget of nearly \$700,000.

**Facebook Page:** [ZachSteppOH](https://www.facebook.com/ZachSteppOH)

**Twitter:** [@ZachSteppOH](https://twitter.com/ZachSteppOH)

**Website:** <http://zachsteppforohio.com>

**QUESTION 1:** *In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?*

**STEPP:** The legislature ought to be making it easier, not harder to vote. Consistent, reliable access to the ballot box will make our state more prepared for crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. I support Ohio joining other states that have implemented automated voter registration such that when residents complete paperwork in high schools and at DMVs across the state, there is an 'opt-out' (as opposed to an opt-in) process. This would increase voter registration across the state and limit the number of hoops individuals have to jump through to access their ballot. I also believe eligible voters ought to be able to request absentee ballots online, and there ought to have absentee ballot drop boxes in cities across Lorain County. These basic improvements to election administration would make it more convenient access to a ballot and would modernize our process of requesting absentee ballots. I believe these changes would also make it safer to vote in a pandemic.

**QUESTION 2:** *How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?*

**STEPP:** I believe the Cupp-Patterson proposal moves us closer to a constitutionally compliant school funding system. The proposal lays out a comprehensive 'cost-per-pupil' method of funding and allocates those costs between local taxes and state taxes depending on the wealth of school districts (in terms of property and income). Still, while it moves us in the right direction, it is a flawed, as it was crafted to muster enough tacit approval from a supermajority of legislators unwilling to commit themselves to the success of our public schools. I believe we need a school funding system that keeps public dollars in public schools. The 'Cupp-Patterson proposal' keeps the current privatization/voucher model in place. The proposal also does not sufficiently fund economically disadvantaged school districts and non English learners. Instead, the proposal commissions a study to see how much more it costs to educate kids in poverty. In the meantime, it offers nominal extra funding.





## STATE REPRESENTATIVE 56<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**BRADLEY A. LACKO (R)** - *No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.*

### **JOE MILLER (D)**

**Education:** BS - BGSU ME - Ashland University MA - Ashland University

**Training and Experience:** 6 years in private sector 20 years in public education 6 years at large councilman Currently serving first two year term in Ohio State House of Representatives.

**Age:** 51

**Facebook Page:** [JoeMillerForOhio](#)

**Twitter:** [@RepJoeMiller](#)

**Campaign Address:** P.O. Box 601  
Amherst, OH 44001

**Website:** <http://Joemillerforohio.com>

**QUESTION 1:** *In what ways would you work to change or improve our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?*

**MILLER:** I am currently cosponsoring or supporting bills to help improve a citizen's access to the ballot. This entails, but is not limited to the following: Safe, timely and accessible voting opportunities that eases current burdens in place for voters to date. Examples include, online registration, ballot request and submission, paid return postage, limited wait times as well as options for ballot box drops and in person early voting.

**QUESTION 2:** *How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?*

**MILLER:** We are currently working on and supporting the Cupp/Patterson HB305 school funding bill. School funding should not be an overdue burden on property owners but adequately funded. Public schools should be fully funded before moving their dollars to charter and private schools. I currently sit on the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee as well as the Higher Education Committee so that I may continue to fight for fully funded quality public schools in Ohio.

**QUESTION 3:** *Where do you stand on women's reproductive rights and health?*

**MILLER:** A woman's health decisions, including reproduction, is a personal decision between her and her doctor and a right that should not be infringed upon.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE 57<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**DARA ADKINSON (D)** - *No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.*

**DICK STEIN (R)** - *No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.*

---

## JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT – TERM STARTS 1/1/2021

**SHARON L. KENNEDY**- *No information was received from this candidate before the print deadline.*

### **JOHN P. O'DONNELL**

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

**Training and Experience:** Civil trial attorney 1993-2002 and 2005-2007; Judge, 2002-2005 and 2007-present

**Age:** 55

**Facebook Page:** [JudgeJohnODonnell](#)

**Twitter:** [@JudgeJackOD](#)

**Website:** <http://odonnellforjustice.com>

**QUESTION 1:** *List your judicial experience (courts and years)*

**O'DONNELL:** I have been a judge for over 16 years. I have presided over hundreds of jury trials, both criminal and civil, and scores of bench trials. I have handled death penalty cases. I was selected by the Chief Justice of The Ohio Supreme Court to be one of only eight judges in Ohio to preside over a commercial docket dedicated to the swift and just resolution of business disputes. I have presided over a criminal mental health docket specializing in the issues arising in the adjudication and disposition of cases where a defendant has a serious mental illness with a psychotic feature. I have a reputation for political independence, a necessity for any good judge.

**QUESTION 2:** *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

**O'DONNELL:** I was a civil trial attorney who was in court almost every working day for approximately 10 years.

**QUESTION 3:** *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

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

## JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT – TERM STARTS 1/2/2021

### **JENNIFER BRUNNER**

**Education:** J.D. Capital University Law School, Order of the Curia; B.S. Sociology-Gerontology, Miami University, Cum Laude

**Training and Experience:** Court of Appeals Judge since 2014; 17 years private law practice, during period of 1987 through 2014 when not in elected public service (founded what was initially home-based law firm in 1988 with 3 small children at home); USAID Rule of Law Expert for 4 engagements in Republic of Serbia on Judicial Reform and Government Accountability (anti-corruption) and 1 engagement in Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, all during period of 2012-2015; International Election Observer in Arab Republic of Egypt for 3 engagements in 2014-2015; Secretary of State of Ohio 2007-2011 (first female elected); Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge 2000-2005; Ohio Secretary of State's office deputy director and legal counsel 1983-1987; Ohio Senate legislative aide and committee secretary 1978-1981, Member of 5 state/local boards: Ohio Student Loan Commission early 1990's, Franklin County Board of Elections 1997; Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission 2011-2012; Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage & Family Therapist Board 2012-2014; Central Ohio Transit Authority

**Age:** 63

**Facebook Page:** [BrunnerCommittee, Justice-for-the-People-Judge-Jennifer-Brunner-for-Ohio-Supreme-Court](#)

**Twitter:** [@JenniferBrunner](#)

**Website:** <http://www.jenniferbrunner.com>

## JUDI FRENCH

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

**Training and Experience:** Justice, Ohio Supreme Court (2013-present); Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals (2004-2012); Chief Legal Counsel to the Ohio Governor (2002-2004); Assistant Attorney General/Chief Counsel to the Attorney General of Ohio (1997-2002); Chief Legal Counsel, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (1993-1997); Associate Counsel, Steelcase, Inc. (1993); Associate, Porter Wright Law Firm (1988-1993).

**Age:** 58

**Facebook Page:** JusticeJudiFrench

**Website:** <http://JusticeJudiFrench.com>; <http://FriendsOfJudiFrench.com>

**QUESTION 1:** *List your judicial experience (courts and years)*

**BRUNNER:** Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals, elected 2014, reelected without opposition 2016

- Serve as one of eight judges in jurisdiction of 1.2 million people reviewing cases filed as of right from lower courts at county and municipal level (civil and felony and misdemeanor cases, probate, family law and administrative law), state court of claims cases, administrative law decisions and holding original jurisdiction in government-related cases.
- Participate in three-judge panels that hear oral arguments on cases fully briefed and prepared for review.
- Manage team of staff attorneys and paralegal in review of records and drafting and review of decisions.
- Confer with other appellate judges on cases presented for oral argument and written decisions following oral arguments.
- Sit as visiting judge on the Ohio Supreme Court and in other courts of appeals.
- Participate in state appellate judge training and information exchange.
- Research and draft decisions on appeals.
- Serve on court Personnel Committee.
- Central Ohio Association for Justice George E. Tyack Judicial Excellence Award for performance as appellate judge, May 2016.
- Judge, Franklin County Common Pleas Court, elected 2000, reelected 2002
- Managed regular docket of at least 500 civil cases and 125 criminal cases at any time pending.
- Eliminated docket backlog from 991 cases to 713 cases in one year.

- Conducted trials including three judge panel death penalty trial, criminal trials for aggravated murder, rape, felonious assault, complicity to felonious assault, robbery, burglary, and theft, and civil trials including age discrimination, premises liability (slip and fall), auto accident and medical malpractice.

- Implemented procedures for jurors to ask questions in trials; affirmed by Ohio Supreme Court with statewide procedures modeled after those challenged and affirmed.
- Working within court and with community mental health and substance abuse service providers, established and presided over the TIES (Treatment is Essential to Success) Program, a felony drug court specialized docket, providing for intensive probation of persons whose substance abuse or substance abuse co-occurring with mental illness has contributed to their commission of nonviolent felonies; this specialized docket is still in operation today.
- Supervised 45 probationers in TIES program and supervised activities of TIES Program coordinator, while maintaining regular docket.
- Collaborated with TIES program service providers across disciplines, including assisting with cross-training for better cooperation; advocate of collaboration for best planning, execution and results, including acceptance by affected populations.
- Presided over cases involving administrative appeals of state agency decisions, including appeals of ballot issue challenges.
- Served on following court committees: Court Personnel Committee, Court Technology Committee, New Judges Committee, Grants Review Committee, Assigned Counsel for Indigent Defendants Committee.
- Taught probation officers of the court and lawyers involved with the Ohio State Bar Foundation curriculum on poverty and working with people in poverty to help them succeed.
- Adjunct professor for graduate law enforcement program for Tiffin University, a private Ohio University, teaching law and ethics for law enforcement officers and for undergraduate law enforcement program, constitutional law for law enforcement

**FRENCH:** – Justice, Ohio Supreme Court 2013 – present  
– Appointed January 2013; elected November 2014.  
– Serve on seven-member court with statewide jurisdiction over all legal matters, including discretionary and non-discretionary appeals, original actions, death-penalty appeals, and disciplinary matters.  
– Serve as frequent presenter before high school, college, law school, legal professional, and general public audiences on matters of access to justice, civic education, law, and campaign policy.

– Appointed by United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts to serve on the Federal Appellate Rules Committee. Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals 2004 – 2012

– Appointed October 2004; elected November 2004; re-elected November 2010.

– Served on eight-member court with jurisdiction over civil, criminal, and administrative appeals; authored 800 opinions.

– Served as administrative judge (2007 and 2008) and as presiding judge (2009)

**QUESTION 2:** *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

**BRUNNER:** My 17 years private practice experience with people from all walks of life has helped me better understand how the law affects people, in a wide variety of life situations. To be a lawyer is a calling to serve society and to uphold and protect the rule of law. I have worked for clients ranging from economically disadvantaged single mothers to one who was running for president (Jerry Brown in 1992).

My private law practice experience includes trial and appellate work for clients in common pleas courts in Franklin, Cuyahoga, Licking, Fairfield, Carroll, Mahoning and Hamilton Counties; in appellate courts in the Tenth, Third, Eighth, Fifth, First, Second and Sixth District Courts of Appeals; the Ohio Supreme Court; United States District Courts (Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio); Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; and am admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. I have represented clients in administrative proceedings before numerous state and local boards, served as a special prosecutor for election fraud and as a hearing officer for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

In 2011, I drafted a statewide referendum petition for a coalition of voting rights activists, labor organizations, state and local political party organizations and faith-based and other nonprofit organizations who gathered more than 400,000 petition signatures to place voting rights referendum on statewide ballot; in 2012-2013 I developed a multi-state and federal executive agency government affairs practice focused on matters before the FCC and state public utilities commissions relating to low income telephone government programs.

I started my own law firm from the corner of my bedroom when our children were 7, 4 and 2, growing it to 32 people

after ten years. Other experience includes serving as general counsel for a computer firm and a trade association, serving as campaign finance counsel for numerous state and local labor unions, corporations, national and state associations, candidates, caucuses and political action committees on state and federal election law, and representing neighborhood groups and developers on zoning, referendum and initiative election issues. Past experience also includes representing judges and judicial candidates before the Supreme Court concerning compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct. Hold experience in drafting state legislation and administrative rules in areas of election law, local option elections, campaign finance, and ethics laws. Served as administrative partner of law firm.

**FRENCH:** For more than two decades, I have dedicated my career to public service. Before becoming a judge, I had served as chief legal counsel to the governor, an assistant attorney general, and a state government lawyer. Those years in public service are critical to my understanding of state laws, my adherence to constitutional limitations, and my commitment to careful and efficient decision making on behalf of all Ohioans.

I also have legal experience in the private sector, having worked in a law firm and a large manufacturing corporation. That private experience helps me understand the practical impact of our decisions and appreciate the impact of our judicial rules and procedures.

Finally, as the daughter of a schoolteacher, I appreciate my Ohio roots and education, and I am committed to using my voice as a Justice to be a part of civic education in Ohio. I speak frequently to students, educators, and civic organizations. Since taking office, I have traveled to all 88 counties (I am on my fifth time around), and I have met with individuals, organizations, businesses, and local leaders, all in an effort to serve them better. If reelected, I will continue that level and method of service.

**QUESTION 3:** *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

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

I chose to run for the Ohio Supreme Court for three reasons: First, I want to be a part of a court that ensures that the first decision interpreting the state constitution's new

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

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

Third, I have found that when there is a political balance on an appellate court, there is less a tendency to "group think." Better decisions are likely to emerge when they involve the give-and-take of views and the softening of others through reasoned and respectful discussion and decision making. Currently, the political balance of the state's high court is a state of unbalance with 5 Republicans and 2 Democrats. A 4-3 balance would, in my view, create some of the best decisions possible from the court. I hope to help provide that balance with my election.

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

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

## JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT 9 TERM STARTS 2/9/2021

**JULIE A. SCHAFER**

**Education:** J.D. University of Akron, MBA University of Akron

**Training and Experience:** Judge, Ninth District Court of Appeals, 2015-present; Judge – Akron Municipal Court  
**Age:** 62

**Facebook Page:** JudgeJulieSchafer

**Twitter:** @JudgeJulieS

**Website:** <http://www.SchaferforJudge.com>

**BETTY SUTTON**

**Education:** Juris Doctor, The University of Akron School of Law; Bachelor of Arts, Kent State University

**Training and Experience:** Attorney for almost 30 years, private practice: (1991-1995; 2000-2007; 2020); Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (Presidential Appointment) (2013-2017); US Representative for Ohio's 13th Congressional District, United States House of Representatives (2007-2013); State Representative of House District 47, Ohio House of Representatives (1993-2000); At-Large Member of Summit County Council (1991-1993); At-Large Member of Barberton City Council (1990-1991)

**Age:** 57

**Facebook Page:** BettySuttonOH

**Twitter:** @BettySutton

**Website:** <https://www.bettysuttonforjudge.com/>

**QUESTION 1:** *List your judicial experience (courts and years)*

**SCHAFER:** Judge, Ninth District Court of Appeals, 2015-present. Judge, Akron Municipal Court, 2014

**SUTTON:** *Candidate did not respond.*

**QUESTION 2:** *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

**SCHAFER:** I actively practiced law daily from 2002 until taking the bench as Judge in 2014. I focused my practice mainly on domestic, juvenile and probate issues in many courts and in many counties. I also represented children as a CASA and as a guardian ad litem in both domestic and

juvenile courts. My countless courtroom experiences as an attorney provided me with a solid foundation in the legal process and in courtroom procedures. Understanding the issues my clients faced enabled me to be a fair and compassionate advocate on their behalf and brought stability to their lives.

Further, my legal training helped me tremendously while serving on the Copley-Fairlawn School Board for 14 years. I have a keen understanding of how administrative agencies operate and brought that knowledge to my service on the board. I received mediation training from the Ohio Supreme Court and was a mediator for Summit County Juvenile Court for many years, helping families to resolve sticky issues of child care and custody.

**SUTTON:** As an attorney since 1991, I began my legal career in private practice. I worked on both civil and criminal cases, with a primary focus on civil litigation that included personal injury, workplace injuries, and general negligence cases. In 2000, I began focusing more on labor and employment law, representing workers, including first responders, teachers, nurses, university professors, building and construction trades workers, and others in a variety of forums. I negotiated collective bargaining agreements, drafted contracts, conducted discovery, represented clients at mediation, arbitration and in court. I also worked on civil service, administrative, and education law issues.

In addition to the traditional legal experience described above, I also have valuable experience in public service, having worked as a lawmaker at the city, county, state, and federal levels of government. I researched and wrote laws, chaired hearings, questioned witnesses, and engaged in administrative oversight, among other things. While serving in the US House of Representatives, I served on the Judiciary Committee, where I worked on issues related to the judiciary and civil, criminal, and administrative law. I served on the Courts, Internet and Intellectual Property Subcommittee and as a member of the Judiciary and Antitrust Subcommittee. I also gained a great deal of insight into laws pertaining to health care, consumer protection, the environment, and government oversight while serving on the Energy and Commerce Committee. During my service as a State Representative, I attained valuable experience as the Vice Chair of the Judiciary and Criminal Justice Committee, as a member of the Civil and Commercial Law Committee, the Health Committee, Insurance Committee and on the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, which reviewed rule-making of over 100 agencies. I also served on the Ohio Community

Corrections Advisory Board and as Chair of the Women in Law Committee of the Ohio Women's Policy and Research Commission. After leaving Congress, I was appointed the Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. In that position, I managed the U.S. portion of an international waterway and gained significant and relevant experience dealing with a wide array of legal issues, which often involved complex legal principles and complicated facts.

**QUESTION 3:** *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

**SCHAFFER:** I am seeking a second term as Judge on the Ninth District Court of Appeals because I am the best candidate for the job.

I currently have five years of experience in this seat and have heard over 1,000 cases and been the author judge of nearly 400 opinions. I have heard capital murder post-conviction appeals, criminal, misdemeanor, and traffic appeals; civil appeals that include medical malpractice, corporate and contractual disputes, and evictions among many others. Family courts produce divorce and post-decree divorce appeals, spousal support, child support and child custody appeals. Juvenile courts frequently terminate parental rights and I have heard many, many permanent custody appeals. The list goes on to include many others including administrative appeals such as student expulsions and worker's compensation.

I served as Administrative Judge in 2017 and Presiding Judge in 2018 – the year we moved the entire Court from the Ocasek Building after 33 years to Main Place. I am the only one of the five judges who doesn't live in Summit County, bringing diversity to the Court – nearly 700,000 of the districts' residents live in Lorain, Medina and Wayne Counties.

I love the randomness of this position – every day brings a new assortment of disputes looking for a resolution and I eagerly seek a sound, lawful, legal opinion that brings closure for the parties. I am running for this seat because I hold service to others as a high calling and humbly ask for the opportunity to continue to serve as Judge of the Ninth District Court of Appeals.

**SUTTON:** J I want to serve on the Ninth District Court of Appeals because I know that it is crucial that our courts are fair and impartial. I have the work ethic and unrivaled experience to ensure that it will be. Having worked as a lawyer, lawmaker, and executive has given me unique

insight into the law, how it should be interpreted, and a deep understanding of the importance of fairness and justice for all who come before the court.

I grew up the youngest of six in Barberton. My dad worked at the boiler factory and my mom worked at the local library. They taught me to value education, the rule of law and giving back to our community. Because of them, I have made the law and service the cornerstones of my career. I attended law school in Akron, where I was recognized for excellence in Constitutional Law. While still in school, I was elected to the Barberton City Council and then served on the Summit County Council, before winning election to the Ohio House of Representatives and the United States Congress. It was there that I learned to write the laws and oversee the courts while serving on the Judiciary and Rules Committees. Subsequently, I was appointed by the President to serve as Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, where I dealt with many complicated legal issues to keep the Seaway open and American Families working.

As an attorney for nearly 30 years, I have represented people and workers who have been injured or not always treated fairly. Those are the kinds of cases I took on. No matter where my career has taken me, I have never forgotten where I come from or why service matters. My unique experience has given me an exceptional understanding of the law and I want to use that understanding to deliver fairness and justice for all on the Court of Appeals. I have dealt with a variety of legal issues throughout my career, giving me valuable experience for this court which reviews a variety of different types of cases. I know that the court's decisions have profound, real life impacts on people and our communities. It must not be driven by politics. It must be fiercely independent. Our Constitution requires it, our citizens deserve it, and I have the right experience to make sure they will get it.

---

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER TERM STARTS 1/2/2021

**MICHELLE HUNG (R)**

**Education:** Tri-C West Campus, Kent State University  
**Training and Experience:** Sales, Finance, Inventory Manager - 12 years, Motorcars Honda. In my 3rd year of a 4 year term on City Council At-Large, N. Ridgeville.  
**Age:** 50  
**Facebook Page:** hungforcommissioner



**Campaign Address:** 37037 Chaddwyck  
N. Ridgeville, OH 44039  
**Website:** <http://hungforcommissioner.com/>

**LORI KOKOSKI (D)**

**Education:** Graduated from Marion L. Steele  
Amherst/Lorain County Joint Vocational School-  
Oberlin/Lorain County Community College/ Lorain  
Business College

**Training and Experience:** I have served as Commissioner  
since 2005. From 2000 to 2005 I was elected as the 8th  
Ward Council Representative in the city of Lorain. I was a  
Realtor & performed sales reviews. I worked in both  
Registration and Human Resources at Mercy Hospital.

**Age:** 55

**Facebook Page:** LoriKokoski

**QUESTION 1.** *Given the failures of levies for public transit, what new ideas do you have for improving or promoting public transit in the underserved and rural areas of Lorain County?*

**HUNG:** The solution by the current Board of Commissioners is to throw money at an issue and have everyone pay for it. They did it in 2016 by imposing a tax increase after the voters rejected it. We need to replace the two current Commissioners. By electing Hung & Moore to the Board of Commissioners, we will create a regional transit system. This will allow Lorain County communities that want transit to create the routes that work best for their residents. Thus creating a partnership between the communities and our County. It will take both Hung and Moore to end the wasteful spending by the current Commissioners.

**KOKOSKI:** The only way we can truly improve the transit system is with a dedicated funding stream. Most systems have either a sales tax or a property tax. For every dollar we put into Transit we get matching dollars from the federal government. Because the taxpayers have not supported initiatives involving Transit we are losing out on those federal dollars. We do not get matching money from the fare box so we have had to think bigger than ridership. We have been able to provide free rides for Veterans by Veteran Services buying advertising and matching that money. We are appreciative of the city of Oberlin who contracts with us to provide additional service for their residents. We need more communities to partner with the Transit system so we can continue to match what they bring to the table

**QUESTION 2.** *What would be your three top priorities if elected Lorain County Commissioner?*

**HUNG:** Unlike the current Commissioner that stated three times during her election and re-election campaigns that she would not impose a tax increase, only to impose three tax increases after she won her elections. I will bring fiscal responsibility back to the County while maintaining services; all without a sales tax increase. I will not defund the Sheriff's department; we need our Deputies. I understand the critical importance of law and order and a properly staffed Sheriff's Department. I will not use our dedicated employees at the Sheriff's Dept as a threat to defund, as the Commissioners have done in the past. Lorain County 911 is too important to have 3 major shutdowns in 10 months. Hung & Moore will be real leaders that can end the blame game, find solutions, and finally fix the problems.

**KOKOSKI:** 1.I will continue to support effective solutions to help addicts and their families who are in need of resources. The drug epidemic is still a critical issue facing our community. I have been working with many treatment providers with the goal of a crisis stabilization center for both addiction and mental health.

2.I want to continue the relationships I have made with many of the leaders in the cities, Villages and Townships to work on infrastructure needs in order to bring in new jobs and future growth to the county. We have a very exciting announcement of 200-400 new jobs in our county because of the partnerships of multi-government agencies. When we work together we can accomplish great things.

3.Rebuilding our county from the devastating effects the virus had on our economy.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER TERM STARTS 1/3/2021

**DAVID J. MOORE (R)**

**Education:** Bachelors of Business Administration  
University of Michigan

**Training and Experience:** County Commissioner from 2001-2005. Kept spending under inflation saving millions of tax payers dollars. Bipartisan projects that won national awards. Kept our police funded properly. Created training and best hiring practices for 911.

**Age:** 58

**Campaign Address:** 173 Terra Lane

Amherst, OH 44001

**Website:** <http://votemoore2020.com>

**Additional Information:** over 30 years of financial experience with 350 employees in 28 states in over \$1.3B in sales

**SHARON SWEDA (D)**

**Education:** Marion L. Steele High School and LCCC / Phi Theta Kappa

**Training and Experience:** Licensed Real Estate Agent and Broker 30 yrs Licensed Title Insurance Agent 13 yrs OAR State Education Committee Chair, OH.Broker of the Year 1999, President of CABOR 1998 / LOCAR 1999, Owner / founder Sweda, Sweda & Assoc. and Am.Patriot Title

**Age:** 67

**Facebook Page:** commissionerssharonsweda

**Campaign Address:** 67 Beech Cliff Dr  
Amherst, OH 44001

**Website:** <http://swedaforohio.com>

**Additional Information:** Lifelong resident. Successful businesswoman. Created jobs and facilitated investment in the county.

**QUESTION 1.** *Given the failures of levies for public transit, what new ideas do you have for improving or promoting public transit in the underserved and rural areas of Lorain County?*

**MOORE:** The board of commissioners missteps in handling the county budget (imposing 3 tax increases) and the entire county not needing transit, are the reasons the levy always fails. We correct the first issue by changing the administration which requires replacing the two current commissioners and by switching to a regional (county) transit system. The communities that are willing to invest in transit will have their own levy and this will allow them to develop routes that are needed for their residents. The county will act as a partner and create connecting routes for the communities involved. As the need and desire for transit grows other communities can join and create the routes they need. Working together we will finally have a transit system that meets needs for the communities.

**SWEDA:** Prior to becoming a county commissioner, I was involved in public transit groups and forums due to my passion to provide quality of life for those who are in our under-served and rural areas facing unmet transportation needs. Through my work and participation, I have come to recognize that this is a problem with many moving parts, but starts and ends with the awareness that there are options

aside from the traditional "bus route". Solving the need will require: \*Collaboration - to utilize services and maximize funding. Shared and matched grants. \*First mile / Last mile architecture (one-off pickups rather than bus route expansion) \*Implementation of technology \*Data collection As a commissioner, I have increased communication and support from the county and promise to remain committed.

**QUESTION 2.** *What would be your three top priorities if elected Lorain County Commissioner?*

**MOORE:** The current board of commissioners are disconnected from the county's needs!

**Fiscal Responsibility:** A one party controlled board has imposed taxes three times in 12 years. The last one against the wishes of 73% of Lorain county voters who voted down the sales tax. I will eliminate the wasteful spending, not raise taxes and maintain county services. Fix 911: Having three shutdowns to 911 in 10 months is unacceptable. The current board doesn't understand technology and compared the 911 system shut down as cable going out in your home. I will drive projects to eliminate shutdowns. The County Road patrol: I will not DEFUND the police and the deputies will no longer be used as political pawns! With current crime and drug issues on the rise we need more deputies not less.

**SWEDA:** The first priority is to support our county's families by expanding programs to solve food needs. My campaign team and I volunteer weekly at the food bank. As commissioner, I have been diligent in obtaining grant and CARES funds to allocate to our food banks. Childhood development is hindered, adult productivity and health is impacted by food insecurity. My second priority is to continue the work I have done to retain and attract good-paying jobs to the county. This is obviously where transportation needs combine with the goal so that we can prove to employers that we have a ready workforce. Third, I feel that elected officials are "called" to be present - to attend and participate in all of the work of the county and combat addiction. I will continue to listen, learn and be present.

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

### **ROBERT J. GARGASZ (R)**

**Education:** University of Toledo, 1980 Ohio Northern University, Claude W. Pettit College of Law, 1982

**Training and Experience:** Practicing Attorney at Law since 1983. Rated Highly in both legal ability and ethical standards (Martindale Hubbell). Former Lorain City Assistant Prosecutor. Former Attorney for Lorain Port Authority. Civil Rights Advocate

**Age:** 61

#### **Facebook Page:**

RobertGargaszfLorainCountyProsecutor

**Campaign Address:** 1670 Cooper Foster Park Road  
Lorain, OH 44053

**Website:** <http://robertgargasz.com>

**Additional Information:** I am a Christian, Conservative patriot who believes in free market American capitalism.

### **J. D. TOMLINSON (D)**

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Oberlin College in 2003. Graduated from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2006.

**Training and Experience:** Private Practice of Law; Continuing Legal Education.

**Age:** 39

#### **Facebook Page:**

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/2881996795177795/>

**Campaign Address:** 600 Broadway Avenue  
Lorain, OH 44052

**Website:** <http://jdforprosecutor.com>

**QUESTION 1.** *What would be your three top priorities if elected Lorain County Prosecutor?*

**GARGASZ:** Achieve perfect and suited justice in each case handled by my elected office.

Create a case communication protocol keeping police officers and victims informed in real time. Timely processing of prosecutions with an emphasis on higher standards of sentencing and restitution tracking/monitoring. Leadership, greater integrity, ambitiously moving to eradicate corruption and make public accountability and fiscal responsibility an attribute of improved government. Improve operations in the LC Prosecutor's office. Implementation of my above list and stated goals at: [www.robertgargasz.com](http://www.robertgargasz.com).

**TOMLINSON:** My three top priorities if elected Lorain County Prosecutor are:

1. Crime prevention and the enforcement of the law; 2. Maintaining good communication with, and serving the government officials, boards, and agencies that I represent; and, 3. Outreach to the public to familiarize the community and community organizations with the role of, and the

services offered by, the county prosecutor's office.

**QUESTION 2.** *What recommendations do you have to improve operations in the Prosecutor's office?*

**GARGASZ:** To consider the interests of the state while maintaining Constitutional Rights and freedoms of Lorain County's citizens. Our Constitutional Republic requires a strong advocate and leader who is not afraid of public criticism, without concern for how it might affect political relationships. I am the experienced candidate capable of doing the job.

We need our community to create a better place for our children and grandchildren to thrive in.

The Prosecutor's office needs to go from a reactive to a proactive mode.

**TOMLINSON:** To improve operations in the county prosecutor's office, I will place an emphasis on regular meetings with the legal divisions of the office and with staff to resolve issues regarding employee problems, duties, and protocols

## CLERK OF COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

**TOM ORLANDO (D) - UNCONTESTED**

## SHERIFF

**PHIL R. STAMMITTI (D) - UNCONTESTED**

## COUNTY RECORDER

### **MIKE DORAN (R)**

**Age:** 36

**Facebook Page:** mikedoran2020

**Campaign Address:** 9334 Nash Ln  
N. Ridgeville, OH 44039

**Website:** <http://www.mikedoran.com>

### **JUDY NEDWICK (D)**

**Education:** Elyria Catholic High School Graduate 1961  
Continuing Education with Ohio Recorder's Association 20 to 30 hours annually since 2004

**Training and Experience:** I began my career with the Lorain County Auditor's office 2/13/1984 in the Real Estate Department and acquired on the job experience. I was

appointed in 2003, and later elected to serve as the Lorain County Recorder in 2004.

**Age:** 77

**Campaign Address:** 470 Augdon Dr  
Elyria, OH 44035

**QUESTION 1.** *What recommendations do you have to improve operations in the recorder's office?*

**DORAN:** I would like to bring a Property fraud alert system to the office. If i have fraud alerts on my checking account, I should also be able to have them on my real estate. I would strive to digitize records and make them available online as far back as we can go. Last but definitely not least, I would like to eliminate the current requirement for veterans to schedule an appointment to turn in their discharge papers and get their veteran ID cards. If I can walk in and get a car title the same day right across the hall, the Vets should be able to walk in to get their cards same day too.

**NEDWICK:** I would continue to work with the public, and land professionals to make access to real estate records as convenient as possible. I would continue to work towards making the records accessible online for the continuity of business.

**QUESTION 2.** *What do you see as the main duty of the recorder as it relates to county government?*

**DORAN:** The main duty for the County Recorder is to ensure that land records are processed accurately and timely. Keeping those records safe is also an important step in that process. the other duties include processing veteran discharge paperwork.

**NEDWICK:** The main duty of the recorder as it relates to county government is to stay apprised of the changes or additions to the Ohio Revised Code. Since I have been Recorder, a few examples of changes made are the redaction of Social Security Numbers, Margins/cross reference numbers on documents recorded, Notary Laws, Implementing Electronic Recording, Implementing The Veterans I D Card and The implementation of the Technology Fund. I am honored to be appointed and serve on the Legislative Committee, the International Association of Government Officials, and the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO).

## COUNTY TREASURER

**DANIEL J. TALAREK (D) - UNCONTESTED**

## COUNTY ENGINEER

**KEN CARNEY (D) - UNCONTESTED**

## CORONER

**FRANK P. MILLER, III (R) – UNCONTESTED**



## JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS – PROBATE – TERM STARTS 2/9/2021

**JAMES T. WALTHER – UNCONTESTED**

## LORAIN COUNTY ISSUES

### Issue #24 Lorain County Renewal / 1.8 mills

Lorain County Commissioners are asking voters to approve renewing a 1.8-mill levy that would raise about \$12.3 million a year for Lorain County Children Services. Owners of a home valued at \$100,000 would pay \$63 annually or about 17 cents a day. The revenue generated provides 54 percent of the agency's annual budget. Federal sources provide about 35 percent and another 11 percent comes from state and other sources. The agency provides investigative and protective services to abused and neglected children, adoption services, programs for teens leaving foster care, and support for grandparents taking care of grandchildren. Since 1999 the agency has been

accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Families.

## MUNICIPAL ISSUES

Issue #4 Amherst City Proposed Ordinance  
Issue #5 Amherst City Proposed Ordinance  
Issue #6 Elyria City Temporary Income Tax Renewal  
Issue #7 Kipton Village Gas Aggregation  
Issue #8 Lorain City 8-F Sunday Sales  
Issue #9 Lorain City 8-F Sunday Sales  
Wellington Village Charter Review Commission

## SCHOOL ISSUES

### Issue #14 Avon Lake School District Renewal / 1.5 mills

Voters for Avon Lake School District are asked to approve a 1.5-mill permanent improvement levy for 5 years. The renewal levy is expected to raise approximately \$705,000 annually to fund district improvements with an expected life of 5 years or more. The Lorain County Auditor's Office certified a homeowner with property valued at \$100,000 will pay \$17.27 annually for the levy. Taxes will not increase because this is a renewal of an existing levy. The funds raised allow the District to create and implement a plan for the care of its facilities, including projects such as bus replacement, general building maintenance/upgrades, repair and replacement of roofs, parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, locker replacement, security camera installation and others.

### Issue #16 Firelands LSD Substitute / 5.98 mills

The Firelands Board of Education approved consolidating and replacing two existing emergency levies into one substitute levy. Both original levies are set to expire in June 2021. Voters are being asked to approve a consolidated levy for 10 years at 5.98 mill. Taxes remain the same for current property owners. The first year of the substitute levy will generate the same \$2.32 million of revenue as the two emergency levies that it is replacing (\$820,000 and \$1,500,000 respectively).

### **Issue #17 Lorain City School District Renewal / 23.85 mills**

Lorain City School District voters are asked to approve a renewal levy called Issue 17. Taxes will not increase because this is a renewal. Issue 17 renews \$10 million annually for operating expenses, beginning January 1, 2022. Revenue from the levy will be used to ensure the Lorain City Schools provide a safe learning environment, including critical technology and remote learning support; medical, dental and mental health services; family engagement and outreach support; masks, sanitizers and Plexiglas barriers; and services and support for families who speak Spanish at home.

### **Issue #18 Lorain County JVS Additional / 0.66 mill**

The Lorain County JVS Board of Education is asking voters to approve a 0.66-mill permanent improvement levy that would generate about \$4 million per year for 10 years. Owners of a home valued at \$100,000 would pay about \$2 a month. The revenue would be used to make safety upgrades and modernize the facilities. Improvements include sprinkler systems for fire suppression, climate systems for labs and safety upgrades to prevent unauthorized intrusions during the day. In addition, renovations would be made to accommodate advanced technologies used to prepare students for high-demand jobs.

**ELECTION DAY IS NOV 3<sup>RD</sup>** **REGISTER BY OCT 5<sup>TH</sup>** **ABSENTEE AND IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING STARTS OCT 6<sup>TH</sup>**

### **Issue #19 Mapleton Local School District Renewal / 4.0 mills**

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Mapleton Local School District for the purpose of permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 4 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.40 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

### **Issue #20 Mapleton Local School District Renewal / 4.0 mills**

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Mapleton Local School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 4 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.40 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

### **Issue #21 Oberlin City School District Renewal / 3.77 mills**

Issue #21 is a 3.77-mills renewal levy for Emergency Requirements that would last five years. It would raise \$940,000 annually for emergency operating funds. If passed, it would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$132 annually. Taxes will not increase because of this renewal.

### **Issue #22 Oberlin City School District Renewal / 2.0 mills**

Issue #22 is a 2.0-mills renewal levy for General Permanent Improvements, but the District would only be collecting 1-mill. The renewal levy would last five years and would generate \$222,961 annually. If passed, funds from the General Permanent Improvements levy would be used for general permanent improvements, such as purchasing District vehicles, instruments and new books. "The Federal Government has provided some funds for COVID-19 expenses, but not enough to cover needed expenses. Furthermore, while the Federal Government increased school District funding; the state cut District funds," said Superintendent Dr. David Hall.

### **Issue #23 Vermilion Local School District Renewal / 8.95 mills**

Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Vermilion Local School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of this School District, in the sum of \$4,250,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitations estimated by the county auditor to average 8.95 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which is 89.5 cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation., for the period of 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

## **TOWNSHIP ISSUES**

- Issue #10 Carlisle Township Renewal / 2.25 mills
- Issue #13 Wellington Township Renewal / 0.3 mill
- Issue #11 Pittsfield Township Electric Aggregation
- Issue #12 Pittsfield Township Gas Aggregation

**OBERLIN COMMUNITY CANDIDATES NIGHT** **2020 STYLE!**

How will you govern? If elected, I will...

**HEAR FROM THE CANDIDATES IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!\***

- United States Congress, 4th District
- Ohio State House, District 56
- Lorain County Commissioners

Video recordings will be available beginning October 1st on YouTube, social media, and the Cable Co-op channel.

- Judge, 9th District Court of Appeals
- Lorain County Prosecutor
- Lorain County Recorder

\*CONVERSATIONS WILL BE RECORDED WITHOUT AN AUDIENCE. BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OCCN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP