



CUYAHOGA COUNTY VOTER GUIDE

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

POLLS OPEN ON ELECTION DAY 6:30AM TO 7:30PM.

Vote-by-Mail ballots can be delivered to Board of Elections office until 7:30pm Vote-by-Mail ballots must be postmarked by Monday, November 2

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. All candidate information has been submitted by the candidates themselves.

Because of space limitations, this printed guide may not include the answers to all questions asked of the candidates. It includes responses received by 9/30/2020. To view the complete Voter Guide, including all questions, candidates, and issues tailored to your voting address, please go to VOTE411.org.

The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland (LWVGC) is grateful to all of the donors who supported the publication of the printed and online Voter Guides with donations to the LWVGC 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 LWVGC.

Thank you to Marcia Goldberg, Lisa Cech, Audrey Morris, Catherine Ryan, Maryann Barnes, Meg Weingart, Penny Jeffrey, Nadia Zaiem, and all the dedicated volunteers who helped work on this voters guide.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Ohio

Phone: (614) 469-1505 Email: lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org Web: www.lwvohio.org

League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland

Email: lwvgc@lwvgreatercleveland.org president@lwvgreatercleveland.org Web: lwvgreatercleveland.org

Ohio Secretary of State

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 (search under Elections and Voting)

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections

www.443vote.us General Inquiries - (216) 443- 8683 Bilingual Information - (216) 443-3233 Hearing Impaired - Ohio Relay Service 711

Find this useful information on the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website boe. cuyahogacounty.us:

Your polling place: Click on "Where do I vote?"

The status of your Vote-By-Mail (absentee) application and ballot:

Click on "Track My Ballot"

A sample of your ballot:

Click on "What's on my ballot?"



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 MotorVehicles. The card must be current (not expired), but it can have an old address. An unexpired Ohio Driver's License, State ID Card, or Interim Documentation with your former address IS an ACCEPTABLE form of ID if your current address is in the pollbook.
 - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, driver's licenses or state identification cards set to expire on or after March 9, 2020, are automatically extended and remain valid through the November 3, 2020 General Election
- 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 document that shows your name and current address
 - 2. utility bill (including cell phone bill)
 - Bank statement, paystub, 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.

FALL 2020 ELECTION CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 6 -

Vote-by-mail and early in-person voting begins

In-Person Early Voting Hours:

Weekdays 10/6 – 10/16 8am to 5pm Weekdays 10/19– 10/23 8am to 6pm Saturday 10/24 8am to 4 pm Sunday 10/25 1 to 5pm Weekdays 10/26 – 10/30 8am to 7pm Saturday 10/31 8am to 4pm Sunday 11/1 1 to 5pm Monday 11/2 8am to 2pm

Call (216) 443-VOTE (8683)

To confirm In-Person Early Voting Hours.
In-Person Early Voting takes place at the Cuyahoga
County Board of Elections
2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115



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

- If you requested a Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot, it will be mailed by the Board of Elections on October 6th.
- Vote-by-Mail ballots must be postmarked by Monday, November 2
- Please know that there is a privacy envelope included with all absentee/ Vote by Mail ballots and it will require a signature. Voters should follow instructions carefully.
- In Ohio, early in-person and VBM (also called absentee) ballots are the first to be processed on election night after the polls close at 7:30 pm on November 3.
- The ballot drop box is located in the parking lot of the Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, accessible from E. 30th Street. The ballot drop box is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is safe and secure.
- Under Ohio law, you are permitted to deliver only your own and the ballots of immediate family members to the ballot drop box and/or Board of Elections.
- If you request an VBM/absentee ballot and decide to vote early, you can do that without voting provisionally.
- You can bring your blank ballot to the Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland, turn it in and vote, but you don't have to bring the VBM ballot in order to cast a normal vote. Election workers are able to check a voter's file and confirm that they haven't already voted.
- If you requested a VBM/absentee ballot, but now want to vote in person on November 3, you will receive a provisional ballot so election workers can double-check you aren't voting twice. But provisional ballots aren't counted until days later, and aren't reported to the public until Nov. 21.
- If you live in the City of Cleveland and transportation is an issue for you, call Voter Drive 216-294-4261 or email voterdrivecle@gmail.com for a free ride either to the drop box or to vote early in person at the Board of Elections, 2925 Euclid Avenue, or to your polling location on Election Day. Others in Cuyahoga County but outside the city limits may call ALL VOTES COUNT – RIDES TO THE POLLS: 216-801-1101 or jleaton6@aol. com for a ride.

U.S. PRESIDENT

4-year term / \$400,000 annual salary

Joe Biden

Democratic candidate

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?

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.

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

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.

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

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.

What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

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.

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

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.

Donald J. Trump

Republican incumbent

Candidate has not responded.



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2-year term / \$174,000 annual salary (Candidates who responded answered additional questions. You can read their responses at Vote411.org.)

District 9 Marcy Kaptur

Democratic incumbent

http://marcykaptur.com

Occupation: US Representative

Education: BA History, University of Wisconsin; MA Urban Planning, University of Michigan; completed coursework toward PhD Urban Planning, MIT

Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for 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.

No voter should have to choose between casting their vote and protecting their health. Beyond the existing protections put in place by health orders in the state of Ohio, I urge continued vigilance on the part of the citizenry in deciding how to cast their vote. Early voting centers, vote at home options, the use of large publicly controlled sites for safe and distanced voting, and safely distanced Election Day voting are all viable options for voters at this time. In May I joined my colleagues to pass the HEROES Act which would have provided \$3.6 billion for state and local governments to make their election systems safe for voters and poll workers under pandemic conditions. My Republican colleagues refused to support the bill and the Senate did not take the HEROES Act up for consideration. Our avenues to bring federal help to the states are limited with such obstruction.

What policies would you support in facing the public health, economic, and equity challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?

The health and economic crisis ongoing in our nation requires forward thinking policies, funding support, and sound leadership. We need trusted, responsible leaders to address the challenges presented by COVID-19. I support policies that increase access to affordable, quality health care and investing in our public health departments to protect the health and safety of people in their communities that also assure expanded testing capacities and accessibility. The public health concern here is imminent, and directly connected to

the economic impact Americans are experiencing who have lost their jobs, been furloughed or are struggling to get to work safely. The loss of income for individuals, and of revenue for small businesses and non-profits is shattering livelihoods and decimating our economy. Caring for those needing unemployment assistance, housing relief, food bank help or other services requires the full attention of Congress and not political gamesmanship.

<u>District 9</u> McKenzie Levindofske

write-in nonpartisan candidate

http://www.mckenzieforcongress.com Occupation: Self-employed Education: BA, University of Buffalo

Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for 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.

When visiting in person voting locations, voters should be free to use the same precautions they use for trips to the grocery store. Voters should also be free to request an absentee ballot if they fear going into public.

What policies would you support in facing the public health, economic, and equity challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?

I will protect the citizen's rights from infringements based on medical directives from individuals and organizations who have proven themselves to be contradictory and untrustworthy. I will protect citizen's rights to opt out of vaccination, quarantine, tracing, and lock down programs. I will support the policy that no citizen can been forced to accept any food, drug, or medical treatment against their objection. I support private and government led investigations into the actual cause, symptoms, transmission methods, preventative measures, and cures for the current coronavirus and future pop-up diseases. I support an investigation into the CDC, WHO, government officials, and global business leaders that are participating in the lockstep pandemic response in an effort to reset our societies and trap us into a one world government system.

With all of the twists and turns of this election cycle, there is one thing that remains true, you can count on the League of Women Voters to provide you with accurate, unbiased, nonpartisan information about ballot issues, candidate information, and the election process. Let the LWV Greater Cleveland help you navigate the election this year. Whether you vote by mail, vote early, or in-person on Election Day - we've got you covered.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 9

Rob Weber

Republican candidate http://RobWeberForCongress.com

Occupation: Lawyer

Education: U.S. Military Academy at West Point, B.S., Environmental Engineering; Univ. of Louisville, M.B.A.; Ohio State Univ. Moritz College

Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for 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

The Board of Elections (for early in-person voting) and each election location (for traditional in-person Election Day voting) should utilize Social Distancing for line formation (including extending outdoors if necessary), require mask wearing, and sanitize every voting machine between uses.

What policies would you support in facing the public health, economic, and equity challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?

I support transparent reporting of the data associated with Covid-19 infection numbers. hospitalizations, and deaths. While Covid-19 is a real and serious health issue, it clearly has been politicized by many different actors with their own agendas. I do believe that the economic effect of the Covid-19 pandemic has been largely marginalized and de-emphasized by our government actors and media. While ensuring safe precautions, the need to open our industry and economy back up is essential. We cannot allow the "cure to be worse than the disease." Individual workers and employers alike are suffering crippling economic losses - many of whom may not be able to ever recover. We need to allow businesses to open back up in full capacity should they so desire and allow consumers to make a personal choice for themselves about whether they feel comfortable to engage with in-person commercial activities.

District 11

Marcia L. Fudge

Democratic incumbent

http://www.marcialfudge.com **Occupation:** Member of Congress Education: BA - The Ohio State University JD -Cleveland Marshal School of Law, Cleveland State University

Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for 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

I support the voting related provisions and funding included in the Heroes Act passed by the U.S. House several months ago, and those included in my bill with Rep. Jim Clyburn introduced in the House in June. They include, for example: 1. Increase early in-person voting days and hours 2. Increase the use of drop boxes 3. Provide prepaid postage for ballot requests and ballots 4. Require universal no-excuse vote-by-mail 5. Require language and disability accessibility for all polling places 6. Eliminate need for witnesses and notarization of ballots and ballot requests 7. Provide resources to recruit and train poll workers 8. Ensure USPS has adequate personnel and equipment to ensure timely processing of all mail-in ballots 9. Provide state/local governments with additional funding to ensure polling places, workers and voters are safe, e.g., \$3.6 billion 10. Increase USPS funding to cover need for additional personnel, overtime, functioning equipment, etc., e.g., \$25 billion

What policies would you support in facing the public health, economic, and equity challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic?

I support the following, among others: 1. Expand paid leave to ensure workers and families are safe and healthy 2. Expand testing, tracing and treating capacity of public health departments 3. Require federal reporting of demographic information on infections and deaths 4. Expand the FCC's Lifeline program subsidizing monthly broadband and telephone service to low-income households for student access to virtual learning and family access to telehealth, etc. 5. Support the use of telehealth to improve access to healthcare 6. Provide health insurance premium assistance to those unemployed or furloughed during/shortly after the pandemic 7. Provide funding to rebuild America's infrastructure to address economic and climate challenges, and long-standing disparities in job and business opportunities, and community

development 8. Require the Dept. of Labor to issue occupational safety and health standard to protect employees from COVID-19

District 11

Laverne Gore

Republican candidate

Candidate has not responded

District 14 David P. Joyce

Republican incumbent

http://joyceforcongress.com Occupation: U.S. Congressman Education: University of Dayton, B.S., J.D.

Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for 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.

Here in Ohio, our election professionals have worked hard to ensure you can safely cast your ballot this November, whether you choose to do so by mail or in person. Voters who don't want to risk their health amid the ongoing pandemic by voting in person still have the right to participate in our nation's democratic process and must have the option to do so. To ensure the Postal Service has the resources they need to deliver those ballots. I recently voted with my colleagues across the aisle to provide the Postal Service with \$25 billion in additional funding. Ohioans who plan to cast their ballot by mail should have full confidence that their vote will be counted. Similarly, voters who wish to cast their ballot in person must be able to do so safely. Our board of elections are working to establish the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of those who vote in-person as well as those working the polls. Last month, I was proud to work with a Lake County manufacturer, RB Sigma, and the Secretary of State's office to create a partnership that will provide nearly half a million surgical masks for poll workers and voters in all 88 counties on election day. RB Sigma was able to retool their machinery to produce PPE thanks to a \$500,000 grant funded by the CARES Act. I'm proud to support manufacturers like RB Sigma that have worked around the clock to produce and deliver essential PPE across Ohio, ensuring that voters who choose to vote on election day are safe.

Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.

Regardless of where you land on the political spectrum, I think everyone can agree that the American people pay the price when partisanship prevents Congress from addressing the challenges facing our nation. That's why I'm proud to have been recognized as one of the most bipartisan members of Congress by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University. While the majority of members ranked below the historical average, I earned a spot in the top 10% in their annual rankings of the most bipartisan members of Congress, which are based on the frequency with which members work with members of the other party on their legislation. I was also honored to receive the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's first-ever Jefferson-Hamilton Award for Bipartisanship. As a member of the House Problem Solvers Caucus, I consistently work across the aisle to find common ground on issues facing the American people. This year alone, I've worked alongside my Democratic colleagues to combat the skyrocketing opioid overdoses amidst the pandemic, ensure our hospitals have sufficient resources and PPE, address military suicide rates, reduce our nationwide sexual assault kit backlog, and protect student loan forgiveness for public servants like nurses, police officers, social workers and firefighters. Every time I go to Washington, I go ready to leave the toxic red team versus blue team mentality at the door and work together with my colleagues across the aisle to create a better future for our country.

District 14

Hillary O'Connor Mueri

Democratic candidate

http://HillaryOConnorMueri.com **Occupation:** Attorney, former U.S. Naval flight officer

Education: J.D., University of San Diego School of Law; B.S., Aviation Engineering, Ohio State University

Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for 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.

The CDC spells out clear recommendations for holding safer elections in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The risk for infection is highest when circumstances force larger crowds to congregate indoors for longer wait times. Lower risk scenarios include having a wide variety of voting options, longer voting periods (more days and/or more hours), and other means of reducing the number of voters congregating indoors. Polling locations should be set up to maximize adherence to CDC recommendations, including mask use, social distancing, and hygiene. Further, we should invest alternatives to in-person voting, including extended absentee voting and the placement of ballot deposit boxes, placed in an equitable manner based on population and travel time from population centers. The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) Act combined with 2002's HAVA (Help America Vote Act) provide over \$825M in available funding; however, most estimates place the cost of a safe, secure election closer to \$2B and the shortfall ought to be covered by Congress via a further stimulus package. Additionally, the Postal Service must be fully funded as part of our election infrastructure. The right to vote is one of Americans' most basic Constitutional rights and Congress has a sworn obligation to ensure all citizens have the ability to safely cast their ballots.

Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.

As a Navy combat veteran, I have always had a country-first, mission-oriented focus. I believe in service--service to country, and service to constituents. In Congress, I will continue the ethic of service that I have demonstrated throughout my career to serve my country and my District. It is no coincidence that division has peaked in our government as the number of veterans in Congress has reached historic lows. According to The Lugar Center's Bipartisan Index, veterans, especially younger ones, score better than other members of Congress on their willingness to work across the aisle. The incumbent in this office has demonstrated his unwillingness to work across the aisle with his strikingly partisan voting record (exceptional even in our currently divided era) and voting with the current administration over 95% of the time. I will always work in service of my Country and my constituents across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters I represent.

<u>District 16</u> **Aaron Paul Godfrey**

Democratic candidate

www.godfreyforcongress.com
Occupation: Physicist
Education: MSc, Physics, Miami University (2010)

Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for

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.

The Federal government should be willing to fund safe and secure elections amidst the pandemic, possibly with a very minor tax increase on the top earners in this country. Repealing Trump's tax cut for the wealthiest people in the nation would easily fund this (as well as many other social projects that would be a huge boon for the people). An election during a pandemic should encourage vote-by-mail above all else, facilitated with postage-paid ballot requests, paid postage for returning the ballot, and multiple ballot drop boxes across every state to minimize the effort needed on the part of the voter to cast their ballot. In-person voting should be done in large, well-ventilated buildings where dividers separate voters from their poll workers. Voting booths would also need the space necessary to be 6 feet apart from others at all time, with masks required for all voters (and provided for free) and PPE provided for poll workers.

Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.

Given I am not currently in a legislative office, this is a difficult question to answer. But I do have some experience trying to bridge gaps - in the 2018 election, I was elected to be on the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Central Committee, representing Westlake's ward 3-D. In that role, I have worked with the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus and the CCDP to help try to bridge the gap between the party leaders and the changes that my fellow activists within the community would like to see in the county party structure. Beyond that, I am seeking this office in order to effect positive change for the people of the 16th District. Those efforts would know no party lines. I will work with anyone, regardless of affiliation, who has a serious and honest intent to solve the problems facing our district and our country, whether it's government corruption, the cost/access of healthcare, the climate crisis, or any of the many other issues affecting our district/ country.

<u>District 16</u> Anthony Gonzalez

Republican incumbent

www.voteanthonygonzalez.com Candidate has not responded.

OHIO SENATE

4-year term; 2-term limit \$60,584 annual salary

(Candidates also answered additional questions. You can read their responses at Vote411.org.)

District 24

Matt Dolan

Republican incumbent

http://electmattdolan.com

Occupation: Ohio senator, attorney

Education: Gilmour Academy, Boston College,

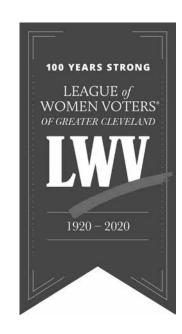
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

Ohio's election system offers opportunities to vote for 28 days prior to election day and of course on election day. A voter can vote by mail, in person at their local board of elections as well as in person at their local polling spot. I support these efforts. The two changes I'd recommend are electronic registration and, when technology allows, electronic voting.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

Specifically, I will work to pass the fair funding amendment that guarantees every public school receives as a minimum from the State, the same amount private and parochial schools receive in auxiliary funding. I support most vouchers be income-based and paid for by the State.



District 24

Tom Jackson

Democrat

http://tomjacksonforohio.com

Occupation: Account executive

Education: State University of New York, Oswego

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

There are simple fixes that can be made to the 2020 General Election process to allow more eligible voters to participate safely. I recommend that Secretary of State LaRose create and run an online mail-in ballot request system to simplify the process. I advocate that return postage on paper request forms and absentee ballots be paid, and Secretary of State LaRose has been granted the authority to do this now. I support placing multiple secure drop boxes for mail-in ballots, rather than just one located at the county Board of Elections. There is nothing in the ballot return procedure that requires only one ballot drop box per county. I suggest the state implement a voter education campaign targeted at historically marginalized groups to help Ohioans navigate the mail-in voting process. And finally, I recommend the use of Bureau of Motor Vehicles data to administratively implement an automatic voter registration process. Ohio already uses this data to verify voters.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

We need to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a quality K-12 education no matter their zip code, socioeconomic status, or race. A state's tax code should reflect its priorities. Continuing to create tax loopholes and breaks for certain groups leaves fewer resources to fund the programs that matter most, landing Ohio in the bottom half of states in education. In 2019, the district 24 state senator used his leadership position to strip millions of dollars from Orange City Schools to benefit a small group of property owners, not solving the problem for the rest of Ohioans. Addressing the over-reliance on property taxes one community at a time is not how we fix public school funding. House Bill (HB) 305 seeks to overhaul the funding formula with input from many groups. I support the efforts to refine HB305 to end the unconstitutional funding of K-12 schools. The current system pits public schools against private schools for funding and with unequal accountability.



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2-year term; 4-term limit \$60,584 annual salary

(Candidates who responded answered additional questions. You can read their responses at Vote411.org.)

<u>District 6</u> Phil Robinson

Democratic incumbent

http://www.robinsonforohio.com

Occupation: Chief Operating Officer

Education: The George Washington University

Graduated 2003 BBA, Finance (minor in History)

Activities: President, Student Association; Senator,

Business School, Student Association; President,

Black Student Union, Case Western Reserve

University Weatherhead School of Management

Executive MBA Graduated 2014; Miscellaneous:

Deans High Honors

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

We need to provide flexibility, guidance, and emergency funding to local boards of elections for any type of crisis during election season. In order to address these issues. I am a cosponsor of House Bill 687 that seeks to address voting during the pandemic including: Counting ballots postmarked on Election Day. Offering multiple early voting locations. Offering multiple secure drop-boxes in communities to drop off mail ballots. Implementing comprehensive voter education campaigns. Prepaid return postage for mail-in ballots. Expanding online voter registration. Increasing and funding in-person safety protocols like sanitation and social distancing. Requiring county boards of elections to have emergency and contingency plans for voting. We need a variety of reforms to combat voter suppression and make voting easier, including: Automatic voter registration. Universal vote-by-mail. Make Election Day a national holiday.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

Where you live should not determine the quality and funding levels of your children's education. We need a fair K-12 funding system that provides equal per-pupil funding for public school students, regardless of local property values, while providing additional funds to account for regional variables

like student-teacher ratios, gifted and special needs students, poverty, and other factors. To work toward this goal, I am a co-sponsor of House Bill 305, the bipartisan plan to reform school funding at a more equitable level. When comparing state funding per-pupil, charter schools get over \$3,300 more per student compared to public schools. Private schools receiving vouchers get over \$2,800 more per student. I oppose any system where charter and private schools receive more state funding than public schools. Also, for-profit education should not receive any public dollars without proper oversight and accountability in order to avoid future corruption schemes, such as the ECOT scandal.

District 6 Shay Hawkins

Republican

Candidate has not responded.

<u>District 7</u> Thomas F. Patton

Republican incumbent

Candidate has not responded.

District 7

Joan T. Sweeny

Democrat

http://joanieforohio.com

Occupation: Veterans Program Assistant Education: Masters in Public Administration-Ohio State University Bachelors in Criminal Justice-University of Dayton

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

I would implement automatic voter registration and expand access to mail-in voting. Voter registration is incredibly difficult during a crisis like a pandemic when regular modes of outreach and voter education are unavailable. Automatic registration would eliminate these challenges, end excessive voter purges, and move toward modernizing our voting system to make sure anyone who is eligible can vote. Voting information must be clear and accurate. Providing confusing and contradictory information is a form of voter suppression. This is partisan maneuvering and it undermines our democracy. Early voting and mail-in ballots need to be accessible and reliable. Throughout this year's primary and general election process, Ohioans have been confused and worried over whether their vote will count. We need to make sure absentee ballot applications are sent to every voter, every election, with postage, and make sure that guidelines are in place for future crises.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" school-funding decision?

Ohio's school funding system is broken, unfair, and unconstitutional. We've known this for decades. Our overreliance on property taxes creates inherent inequities and places too heavy of a burden on local governments. The longer we allow this slowmoving crisis to fester, the more Ohio's entire public school system will suffer. I believe the bipartisan Cupp-Patterson school reform bill introduced last year is a good start. Replacing the current system with an input-based model determining how much it actually costs to educate a child in each district is an important step in the right direction. It also sets important baselines for student-teacher ratios and other key factors. However, more work urgently needs to be done to make sure urban, rural, and small-town districts are not left behind. Underlying this discussion is the need to reaffirm our state's commitment to public education. Charter and private school funding should not undermine existing public school systems.

District 8

Kent Smith

Democratic incumbent http://www.kentsmith.org

Occupation: State Representative, 8th District Education: 1984 - Graduate, Euclid High School. 1988 - Graduate, Miami University. 2001 - Masters Degree, Urban Studies, Cleveland State University. 2003-2007, PhD Studies in Economic Development at Cleveland State University.

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

Voting should be easy and accessible. Susan B. Anthony once said, "Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it." There are six things I would do to make Ohio voting easier. 1. Provide prepaid postage, so that voters can return ballots for free. 2. Allow mail-in ballots to be counted if they are postmarked on or before Election Day. 3. Make it harder for election officials to toss out ballots if minor information is missing. 4. Increase the number of secure ballot drop boxes for the personal return of mail-in ballots. 5. I would reduce the voter registration deadline from the current 30 days before Election Day to 10 days before Election Day. 6. Expand the voting hours for early, in-person voting.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

The state needs to increase its share of public school funding support. Education should be seen as an investment, not an expenditure. The three legs of public support of government operations are property taxes, sales tax and income tax. In the last 20 years the State of Ohio has decreased income taxes and increased sales tax, that trend needs to be reversed. In addition, support of vouchers and charter schools needs to have its own distinctive line item in the state budget, separated from the local district funding formula.

District 9

Janine Boyd

Democratic incumbent

Candidate has not responded.

District 9

Dustin D. Russell

Republican

Candidate has not responded.

District 10

Terrence Upchurch

Democratic incumbent

Candidate has not responded; he is running unopposed.

District 11

Stephanie Howse

Democratic incumbent

http://stephaniehowse.com

Education: M.A. - Environmental Studies
(Cleveland State University) B.S.- Civil
(Environmental) Engineering (Florida A&M University)

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

I would change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impact the right to vote, by: Allowing citizens to register and vote online; Allowing local boards of elections to have early voting locations based on a per capita basis; Allowing registered voters to vote at any designated voting location within their county; Allocating necessary funds for local

boards of elections to have the flexibility to ensure safe, secure and convenient elections based on the needs of voters within their community and; Creating an innovation fund for local boards of elections to implement voting methods to increase voter participation and increase voter confidence in the process of voting.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

The changes I would advocate for to reduce the reliance on local property taxes to fund public education are: The tax policy must be based on every individual tax payer and business paying their equitable share to fund public education without any special tax loopholes to reduce tax liability; The funding formula policy must include the allocation of equitable (not equal) resources needed to educate children based on their academic, social and emotional needs and must move from a per pupil basis and; The school voucher policy must be based on the financial need of a family and be awarded to children that have actually attended school in their home district.

District 12 Juanita Brent

Democratic incumbent

Candidate has not responded.

District 12

Jerry V. Powell

Republican

Candidate has not responded.

District 13

Daniel Harrington

Republican

Candidate has not responded.

District 13

Michael J. Skindell

Democratic incumbent

http://www.mikeskindell.com

Occupation: Attorney/Legislator

Education: Walsh College, B.A. in Business & Pol. Science 1983; Cleveland-Marshall College of Law J.D. 1987

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In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle

crises that could impair the right to vote?

As a legislator, I have worked to 1) provide online voter registration; 2) expand vote-by-mail opportunities during the pandemic; 3) provide prepaid postage for ballots and applications; 4) provide additional (more than one) early vote locations; and 5) provide additional (more than one) ballot drop-off locations.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

I support more state share funding of public schools to reduce the over-reliance on local property taxes. During the last 20 years, the Legislator has cut taxed benefiting primarily large corporations and the very wealthy. I support eliminating tax loopholes, exemptions and deductions which benefit large corporations and the very wealthy and use the additional revenue to increase the share of state funding.

District 14

Bride Rose Sweeney

Democratic incumbent

Candidate has not responded.

District 14

Lynn McMahan

Republican

Candidate has not responded.

District 15

Jeffrey A. Crossman

Democratic incumbent

http://www.crossmanforohio.com

Occupation: Attorney

Education: B.A. University of Mount Union M.A. University of Akron J.D. Cleveland-Marshall Colle

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

1. Deploy additional dropboxes as recommended by local BOE's 2. Continue advocating for the restoration of USPS sorting machines, mailbox locations, and additional staffing to clear any mail backlogs to ensure an easy mail balloting process.

3. Make it easier to request your ballot by mail if you choose to vote that way (online or telephone requests rather than the cumbersome and time consuming mail request process). 4. Pay the return postage on ballot applications and ballots. 5. Allow

voters to return mail ballots at their home voting location. 6. Require safety protocols at in-person voting locations (mandatory masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing). 7. Commit to keeping polls open as long as necessary beyond standard closing times to accommodate any long lines due to reduced capacity.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

Funding can come from a number of sources to reduce reliance on local property taxes. One such source would be to close the LLC Business Loophole completely which would generate nearly \$1 Billion of additional revenue for the state and can be applied to schools. This is just one example of how regressive Ohio's tax system is and reversing that structure would go a long way to finding sources of revenue to fund schools. I think the vouchers should be removed from the local district's budgets and be funded as a separate system. Currently, these operate as a penalty to the District that often has to pay more out to a private school than they receive from the state in funding. This plan hurts our local public schools and is detrimental to our students in the long run.

District 15

Kevin C. Kussmaul

Republican

http://www.kevinckussmaul.com/ Occupation: Project Manager

Education: John Carroll University Master of Business Administration (2016) John Carroll University Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration (2015)

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

I would work with the Sectary of State's office and legislature to have additional backup locations and personnel. I would also work to provide better communication to inform voters of changes and more equipment to handle absentee voting.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

From my experience as a Board of Education Member I saw firsthand the impact the legislature has on local districts. One of the most burdensome is unfunded mandates which I would work to eliminate or reduce.

District 16

Dave Greenspan

Republican incumbent

http://GreenspanForOhio.com

Occupation: Small Business Owner, State

Representative

Education: Bachelor of Science, Accounting and Business Administration Troy University, Troy, Alabama 1988

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

In Ohio, we currently have several options to vote. We have a 28 day early voting period in which we can vote by mail, drop your ballot off at the board of elections or in-person voting. Additionally, we can vote in person on election day. On March 25th, I voted for the Secretary of State to mail out ballot application request forms and for the return postage during the March 17th primary election. Additionally, later this year, I voted for the Secretary of State to mail ballot applications request form to every registered voter in Ohio. Several options have been discussed including providing return postage for the ballot (which I voted for and was offered during this past primary), additional drop off box locations and requesting a ballot via the county board of elections website. These are voter programs that deserve consideration and I anticipate full program presentations from the Ohio Secretary of State in the near future.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

I have been advocating for a review and change to the current school funding formula. I am a cosponsor on the most comprehensive school funding bill in years, the Cupp-Patterson Bill. Earlier this year, I hosted a Townhall meeting in Westlake, in which the two sponsors, Representatives Cupp and Patterson, were in attendance. At that event, they outlined their program and answered questions from those in attendance. Additionally, I have signed on to an amendment that is included in the current state operating budget that would guarantee every school district an minimum funding level that is significantly higher than the funding most of our local districts are receiving.

Today, the League stands for the rights of all people to be active participants in their government. We educate voters, empower people to participate in civic life, and advocate for policies that strengthen our democracy.

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District 16

Monique T. Smith

Democrat

http://www.moniquesmithforstaterep.com/
Occupation: Candidate for State Representative
Education: BA, Political Science - The Ohio State
University

In what ways would you change our election system so we are better prepared to handle crises that could impair the right to vote?

Efficiencies must be created to do away with Ohio's lengthy, inconvenient and confusing process for voting by mail. Unfortunately, Ohio has a convoluted, multi-step process today that can be a deterrent. Currently, in the first two steps of the process, a voter must obtain or print a copy of an absentee ballot request form and then mail it back to the Board of Elections. The Board of Elections will then send the voter their ballot and the voter must complete it, add proper postage - sometimes requiring multiple stamps - and either drop their completed ballot at the Board of Elections, which is the only location in the county with an official drop box, or mail it back before deadline. Having the ability to request a ballot online, ensuring that postage is pre-paid for absentee ballots and having several secure ballot collection boxes placed throughout the county at locations like libraries and city halls would improve this process dramatically and increase voter participation.

What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education as required by the "DeRolph" schoolfunding decision?

Ohio's school funding formula has been considered unconstitutional since an Ohio Supreme Court ruling in 1996 ordered state government to "enact a constitutional school-funding system." Our state's school funding formula still relies mainly on local property taxes, which continues to create an unconstitutional and unacceptable per-student funding gap. The proposed Cupp-Patterson bill is an improvement I'd support, as it attempts to address some of this. But it still allows almost all of the nearly \$2,000 gap between the best-funded schools and the lowest-funded schools in the state to persist, which is unacceptable. We must devote more of the state budget toward direct funding of public schools. Every school district should receive adequate and equitable educational resources based on the needs of the student population,

the goals set by the state, and the amount of local funding that can be provided to help meet those needs. Ohio's EdChoice voucher program undermines these goals.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL

Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10

Candidates for four of the five seats up this year are held by incumbents running unopposed. None of the candidates replied to the League's General Election questionnaire.

District 2 Dale Miller

Democrat

District 4

Scott M. Tuma

Democrat

District 6

Jack Schron Jr.

Republican

District 8

Pernel Jones Jr.

incumbent Democrat

Dyrone Smith

Libertarian

District 10

Cheryl L. Stephens

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Michael C. O'Malley

Incumbent Democrat

Candidate has not responded; he is running unopposed.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

4-year term No salary (nonpartisan)

District 5

Christina Collins

http://www.drcollins4stateboard.com

Occupation: Educator

Education: PhD from Kent State in Curriculum & Instruction; Master's in Education from Ashland University; Bachelor's in English from Ohio State

University

Given our experience with COVID-19, what role can the state board play in helping school districts protect the health and well-being of the community while providing education to our children?

Although the state board is not a policy-making body, members of the board can be valuable resources to their constituents. Members have the power to convene within their districts, which means they can bring local stakeholders together to problem solve issues such as COVID-19. Members can also serve their districts by providing credible and timely information to help with decisionmaking as well as serving as liaisons between their constituents and the state. In concert with the state superintendent of instruction, state board members represent a message to communities and school districts across Ohio through their communications; these messages should be supportive and understanding, and resources referenced (preferably designed by the Department of Education or other educational authority) should be helpful to those making local decisions.

What information should the state board of education collect, analyze, and report so policymakers and residents of Ohio can evaluate how well all schools that receive public funds are serving students and communities?

There is a plethora of data available in the current educational climate - too much data, perhaps, as it is easy to get lost in the numbers and forget that we are talking about children and communities. Available data include subjective sources such as teacher-focused surveys generated by the Ohio Department of Education around specific topics and feedback generated through conversations, and more objective data sources such as state testing results, career and college preparedness data, local assessments with state reporting requirements, and other assessment data points. All of these data points are important IN PERSPECTIVE and relative

to their communities, in that they are each one snapshot in time and represent more than just what happens in school. The board should also look at demographic data and locally-developed surveys to determine if districts are meeting the needs of their communities and parents, which may not be reflected by test scores.

District 5

Lisa Woods

incumbent

Occupation: Mother, State Board of Education

Member

Education: Graduate of Buckeye High School, and North Metro Technical College, Environmental Horticulture

Given our experience with COVID-19, what role can the state board play in helping school districts protect the health and well-being of the community while providing education to our children?

Each board of education knows the unique local concerns associated with the health, safety, and welfare of their community. I believe that the state board should be flexible in working with local boards and respond to the needs of the communities to assure that safety is paramount, but also that the learning plans do not severely hamper students, parents, and teachers. Policy should come from the local boards to the state board using expertise but not dictating education policy. As much actual classroom instruction with appropriate safety measures is encourage.

What information should the state board of education collect, analyze, and report so policymakers and residents of Ohio can evaluate how well all schools that receive public funds are serving students and communities?

The current report card method is deeply flawed. I have worked with the general assembly to do away with the outmoded and deceptive information contained on the current report card. Data that cannot be manipulated and compares apples to apples is critical for a more accurate report card. Learning can and must be measured, but the current system has proven to be inaccurate and unacceptable.

<u>District 11</u> Michele Elba

Candidate has not responded.

District 11

Meryl Johnson

incumbent

Occupation: Retired Teacher
Education: Master of Education in Curriculum and

Given our experience with COVID-19, what role can the state board play in helping school districts protect the health and well-being of the community while providing education to our children?

The State Board of Education recently passed a resolution on racial justice which deals directly with the well-being of the community, in particular communities of color. Along with three other board members, I was instrumental in the development of the resolution. The opening statement of purpose

reads: "Resolution to condemn racism and to advance equity and opportunity for black students, indigenous students and students of color."
Racism is a public health crisis; by passing this resolution, we reinforced our dedication to equity. The resolution was originally very difficult to locate. As a result of my request, it now appears on the home page of the Ohio Department of Education's website. Also, I have continuously shared information from the Reset and Restart guide developed by the Ohio Department of Education and the Governor's office with our community through social media. A number of educators expressed their gratitude upon receiving this vital information.

What information should the state board of education collect, analyze, and report so policymakers and residents of Ohio can

evaluate how well all schools that receive public funds are serving students and communities?

The State Board of Education has four committees. I serve on the Teaching Learning and Leading Committee. We analyze testing data during our committee meetings. I am always conflicted during those discussions because of Ohio laws stating that scores must improve annually. These laws are passed without addressing the unconstitutional funding system. Through the Integrated Student Supports Committee, we are focused on developing a framework for the whole child and working towards equity, which is the central theme of our Strategic Plan. Glaring disparities continue to show up in the data we analyze. The legislature continues to ignore the inequities, including the barrier of trauma. A number of states have passed budgets requiring trauma-informed training for educators and others who work with children

and young adults, including Pennsylvania. The legislators should stop focusing on privatization and use evidence-based strategies to improve our public schools. Vote wisely.

District 11

Rocky Neale

Candidate has not responded.



Term beginning 1/1/21 Sharon L. Kennedy

(incumbent)

kennedyforohio.com/

Occupation: Ohio Supreme Court Justice Education: Juris Doctor, University of Cincinnati, College of Law 1991; Bachelor Degree of Social Work, University of Cincinnati, School of Social Work, 1984

Experience: Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, 2012-Present; Administrative Judge/Judge, Butler County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 1999-2012; Attorney at Law, General Practice, 1991-1998; Magistrate & Warrant Officer, Butler County Area Courts, 1995-1998; Warrant & Compliance Officer, Butler County Juvenile Court, 1996-1997; Special Counsel, Ohio Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery, 1995-1998; Disciplinary Counsel, Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 38, 1991-1998; Director, Victim/Witness Division, Butler County Court of Common Pleas. 1989-1991; Law Clerk for the Honorable Matthew J. Crehan, Judge, Butler County Court of Common Pleas, 1989-1991; Police Officer, Hamilton Police Department, 1985-1989

Endorsements: Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio (ACT Ohio), Black Women's PAC, Buckeye Firearms Association, Cement Masons and Plasterers Local #886, Formerly Incarcerated Individuals Necessary Political Action Committee,

OHIO SUPREME COURT

6-year term / \$175,214 annual salary

Fraternal Order of Police, G-PAC, Cincinnati Right to Life, The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 18, NFIB Ohio PAC, The Northwestern Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council Local Union #894, Ohio Bail Agents Association, Ohio Business Roundtable, Ohio Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee. Ohio Citizens PAC, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Agriculture for Good Governess Political Action Committee, Ohio Manufacturers Association PAC, Ohio Real Estate Investors Association, Ohio Right to Life, Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants, Ohio State Medical Association Political Action Committee (OSMAPAC), Ohio Veterans United, Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local Union 219, Roofers Local 134, Stark County Votes for Women, Toledo Police Command Officers' Association (T.P.C.O.A.), Tri-State Building & **Construction Trades Council**

Affiliations: Present: Lean Forward: Advancing Veterans Treatment Courts Across Ohio, Butler County Bar Association, The Federalist Society, Continuing Legal Education Seminars for judicial and bar associations; Past: Ohio Judicial Conference, Domestic Relations Law & Procedure Committee; Alcohol Drug Addiction Services Board; Butler County Juvenile Court, Multi-Disciplinary Intervention Program; Butler County Work Group Committee; Cincinnati Bar Association; Lakota East Mock Trial, Advisor; Law Enforcement Training,

Lecturer; Lindenwald Kiwanis Club; Habitat for Humanity; Hamilton Chamber of Commerce; Honor Council, University of Cincinnati College of Law; Hope for Healthy Kids; Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges; Oxford Chamber of Commerce; Senior Citizens, Inc.; St. Xavier High School, Lecturer; Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA); YWCA, Board Member

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, 2012-Present; Administrative Judge/Judge, Butler County Court of Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 1999-2012

What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

My non-judicial experience informs my judicial experience and I draw upon that experience everyday as a justice at the Supreme Court of Ohio. I began my career in the justice system as a police officer in the City of Hamilton enforcing the law and keeping the peace. I left law enforcement to attend law school and served as a law clerk in the Court of Common Pleas, General Division for Judge Matthew J. Crehan drafting memos and opinions for motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment. Serving as a solo practitioner, I practiced law in a wide-array of areas including, but not limited to, criminal, domestic relations, probate, and juvenile in both the trial courts of Butler County

and the Twelfth District Court of Appeals. During that time I also served as Special Counsel for Attorney General, Betty D. Montgomery and a part-time Magistrate in the Butler County Area Courts hearing civil cases. In 2019 the docket of the Ohio Supreme Court of Ohio included the following case types: 48.8% criminal; 21.8% miscellaneous; 17.5% civil; 7% practice of law; 4.9% domestic relations, juvenile, and probate.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

I am seeking re-election to the Ohio Supreme Court to continue my service to the people of Ohio applying the law equally in a fair and impartial manner providing a definitive statement of law in a clear and concise decision. In addition, I seek to continue my work beyond the bench, including but not limited to, my Lean Forward initiative which advances substance abuse and mental health treatment of justice-involved veterans, civic education about the importance of our tripartite system of government and the role of the judicial branch in that government and the availability of employment opportunities for women and minorities in the law, continuing to write and present legal education programs on important issues like professionalism and cultural consciousness, and my work to expand the reach of problem solving courts by incorporating programs like Bridges Out of Poverty and growing holistic re-entry programs.





OHIO SUPREME COURT

6-year term / \$175,214 annual salary

Term beginning 1/1/21 John O'Donnell

odonnellforjustice.com

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

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

Affiliations: Roman Catholic; St. Malachi Center Bd. of Trustees; Lakewood City Academy Bd. of Trustees; Cuyahoga County Law Library Resource Board; Ohio State Bar Association; Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association; Consistently disappointed Cleveland Browns fan

Experience: Civil trial attorney 1993-2002 and 2005-2007; Judge, 2002-2005 and 2007-present. **Endorsement:** The Cleveland Plain Dealer

List your judicial experience (courts and years.

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.

What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I was a civil trial attorney who was in court almost every working day for approximately 10 years.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

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.

Term Beginning 1/2/2021 Jennifer Brunner

www.jenniferbrunner.com

Occupation: Judge, Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals

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

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 1990Õs, 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

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

Affiliations: 2008 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award Recipient for work as Ohio's 52nd Secretary of State; current Board Chair, The Legacy Fund of the Columbus Foundation, supporting central Ohio LGBTQ+ nonprofit organizations; former board member of Cleveland-based Center for Community Solutions (research and advocacy on health policy) 2012-2019; American, Ohio and Columbus Bar Associations; American Judges Association; Oxfam Sisters of the Planet Ambassador; Member of US Global Leadership Coalition Ohio Advisory Committee; religious affiliations: Catholic and United Church of Christ (Protestant)

List your judicial experience (courts and years).
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.

What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

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



OHIO SUPREME COURT

6-year term / \$175,214 annual salary

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.

Why are you running for this particular court

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.

Term Beginning 1/2/2021 Judi French

incumbent

JusticeJudiFrench.com, FriendsofFrench.com Occupation: Justice, Ohio Supreme Court Education: B.A. (Political Science); M.A. (History); J.D. (Law with honors), The Ohio State University 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). Endorsements: Ohio Fraternal Order of Police: Ohio Chamber of Commerce PAC: Ohio Farm Bureau AGGPAC; NFIB Ohio; Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio (ACT Ohio); Ohio State Medical Association PAC

Affiliations: Court Liaison, Ohio Access to Justice Foundation Board; Volunteer, Franklin County Children's Services College Bound Program; Member, Federal Appellate Rules Committee; Member, First Community Church; Member, OSU Moritz College of Law National Council

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

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 eightmember court with jurisdiction over civil, criminal, and administrative appeals; authored 800 opinions; served as administrative judge (2007 and 2008) and as presiding judge (2009)

What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

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.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

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.







8th DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

6-year term (except for unexpired term) \$163,309 annual salary

Term beginning 2/09/2021

Sean C. Gallagher

incumbent, running unopposed

Occupation: Judge, Ohio Court of Appeals Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law; B.A. Ohio University; St. Edward High School Experience: Judge since 1998; Prosecuting Attorney 1991-1998; Bailiff 1985-1991; Probation Officer 1980-1984

Endorsements: Democratic Party
Affiliations: Cleveland Metro Bar Association; Ohio
State Bar; Arizona Bar; Assoc.; Ohio Sentencing
Commission; Our Lady of Angels; St. Coleman
Restoration Committee

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

I have over 22 years experience as a judge in both the trial and appellate court levels. I've served as a judge in the Ohio Court of Appeals, 8th District, for over 17 years. I've authored over 1,400 lead opinions and have served on over 4,300 appellate panels. I've also handled numerous original action cases. I served for 5 years as a judge in Cleveland Municipal Court where I presided over 25,000 cases including more than 20 jury trials and 400 bench trials. I've also served as a visiting judge on the Supreme Court of Ohio.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I served as an assistant County prosecutor in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office from 1991-1998 where I tried and investigated numerous cases from murder to fraud including a period of service in the "white collar" Economic Crime Unit of that office. I also served as a trial court bailiff in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court from 1985-1991 where I managed the civil and criminal docket for Judge Donald C. Nugent while attending law school at night. I also served as a probation officer in Cuyahoga County from 1980 to 1984. I completed the A.S.T.A.R. course, at the Applied Science Technology Adjudication Resource Center, Washington D.C. (2007-2009) A two-year certification program offered through the Supreme Court of Ohio addressing the admission and/or exclusion of scientific evidence in American courts. Training included course study at Johns Hopkins University Medical School in Baltimore, Maryland. I was certified on April 17, 2009. I currently serve on the Ohio Sentencing Commission and previously served as the Chairman of the Commission on Practice and Procedures for Ohio Courts. (Supreme Court of Ohio) in 2008-2009. I've been

active with the Ohio Judicial Conference: Criminal Law and Procedure Committee since 2001. I've served as presenter with the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College since 1998. I am also active with the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni Association (Life member) and I previously served as Editor of the former Cuyahoga County Bar Association's, "Law and Fact" magazine in 2005-2007. I am a past President of the Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association, 2001-2002.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I am running for re-election to continue my effort to provide a fair and balanced platform for the resolution of disputes in our community. I come from a humble, simple background. My first job in a courthouse was as a janitor cleaning floors. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college and go to law school. My parents were immigrants who worked to provide me the opportunity for a better life. I've worked my way up through the system. I've been involved at every level of the court system for more than forty years. I believe in its innate ability to ultimately offer hope and justice to all who appear in court. The best trait I offer is that I remember my humble origins and offer every attorney, litigant and colleague the promise that I will listen to each issue and balance the interests of those litigants within the context of the applicable law, regardless of any personal interests. I am not an activist judge. I try to apply the law to the facts of each case in a manner that is fair and balanced to all involved. I am humbled by the fact that I have been elected as a judge and have been afforded the great opportunity to serve and try to make our justice system better. I don't take the responsibility lightly. I've dedicated myself to not only be a fair and impartial jurist, but also to work with professional entities to try to improve the judicial system. I believe my years of service have made me a better and more thoughtful judge. I've sat on a significant number of cases over my career in the court of appeals. I sincerely believe this experience will serve the court and the legal community in a positive way in my last term.



Term beginning 2/10/2021 Larry A. Jones

incumbent

Candidate1 has not responded; he is running unopposed.

Term beginning 2/11/2021

(no incumbent is running)

Emanuella D. Groves

http://groves2020.net

Occupation: Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court **Education:** J.D. from Case Western Reserve School of Law

Experience: Judge 18 years; Attorney at Groves and Groves Attorneys at Law; Staff Attorney and Administrator at Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority and Assistant Cleveland Prosecutor **Endorsements:** Cleveland Plain Dealer; Northshore AFL-CIO, Shaker Heights Democratic Club, FIIN-PAC

Affiliations: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, National Bar Association Judicial Council, National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

I have been a Cleveland Municipal Judge for 18 years. I was elected in 2001. I have been the Cleveland Mental Health Specialized Docket judge for 3 years. I have used the power of the court to impact the lives of the people who appear before me and the legal system. I have created numerous programs to help offenders help themselves. As a result of the Get on Track Program I helped create, over 600 people have secured their GED's. I created the Community Orientation Program (COP) to educate people on their rights and responsibilities when they encounter the police. I also created a curfew program to address both parents' and children's responsibilities in the school. I was the Chair of the Rules Committee for over 10 years. As the Chair, I spear headed many improvements in the court and reviewed and revised rules that helped improve the operations of the court. Concerned with defendants sitting in jail on minor misdemeanor offenses because they failed to appear in court, I speared the creation of a process to allow for the release of defendants once they were processed. As the Mental Health Court Judge, I created innovative measures to focus on the therapeutic progress of each participant who was diagnosed with mental illness. The compliance hearings for the participants in the program was relocated from the justice center and into a community room at a social service site. Education on mental illness and art therapy have been incorporated into the program. These innovative measures have been recognized by both the Alcohol Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). I have written over 20 opinions that have been published and used as legal precedence by other judges.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I am a student and teacher of the law. I have been an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve School of Law for 3 years. I teach Criminal Procedure II. I must study and stay current in the law. My teaching allows me to challenge law students as they challenge me. I create Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars for attorneys. I select thought provoking topics. I have had hundreds of attorneys attend the numerous seminars that I have created and have been approved by the Ohio Supreme Court. The evaluations from the attendees have been extremely favorable and often state the seminars were one of the best they have attended. I have presented at many CLE seminars covering various topics. I prepare my own presentations which requires me to research the subject matters. I volunteer through my church, the bar association and sorority. I have volunteered at the school close to my church for many years. I have an opportunity to see the needs of the students and mentor them in personal responsibility and goal setting. I volunteer on behalf of the bar association at local high schools. Through my sorority I assisted with it's annual expungement fairs. My volunteer work helps me better understand the needs of the community and the people who come before me. I am often asked to speak at church programs. I appreciate the opportunities because they require me to be more knowledgeable about the bible. In my preparation, I must also do serious self reflections and evaluations of myself to see how I measure up to the personal characteristics and principles that I speak about. Personal qualities like patience, kindness, gentleness and self control. I am convinced in order to be a good judge, you must strive to be a good person and understand the importance of exercising your power responsibly. Finally, I am a wife of 39 years and mother of 2 children who are both graduates of Princeton University. Juggling the needs of a family require

The information in this Guide was gathered from a number of League sources as well as the website judicialvotescount.org.

All candidate information has been submitted by the candidates themselves.

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8th DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

6-year term (except for unexpired term) \$163,309 annual salary

many skillsets that are transferable to the court as you make decisions about people's lives.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

The Court of Appeals is a scholarly court. The appellate court can effectively impact the administration of justice. As a trial court judge, I have had over 20 opinions written and published. These opinions are used as legal precedence by other judges and cited in legal reference books. I recall over 10 years ago, an appellate judge sought me out at a judicial conference of hundreds of judges to let me know she had used one of my opinions in an opinion she had written. She went on to ask me if I had considered becoming an appellate judge. At the time I had not. However, since that time, I have written far more opinions and began to teach at Case Law School. It is a great honor to stand as a professor in the room I once sat as a student. I am able to stand there because of the scholarly efforts I have undertaken. I love the law and impact it can have on people's lives, our community and the administration of justice. I understand the responsibility to uphold the constitution.

Term beginning 2/11/2021

(no incumbent is running)

Pamela A. Hawkins

Occupation: Attorney

Education: JD from Cleveland Marshall College of Law; M.S,S,A, from Case Western Reserve University; M.Ed. from Cleveland State University; B.A. from Harding University

Affiliation: Church of Christ at Forest Hill **Endorsement:** Cuyahoga County Republican Party

List your judicial experience. I have no judicial experience.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I have been a practicing trial attorney for over 16 years. During that time I have represented adults, children, parents and been an Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor in the Children and Family Services Unit. My areas of practice include appeals, bankruptcy, probate, adult criminal, juvenile delinquency, private custody, and children's services cases. As a trial attorney, I have learned the skills required to prepare a case for trial and identify potential issues for appeal. I have prepared over a dozen appellate briefs and argued those cases before the 8th and 9th District Courts of

Appeals. Practicing appellate law provides the opportunity to carefully analyze the law and the actions of the various parties involved in a case. Writing an appellate brief has given me the opportunity to fine tune my legal analysis skills and identify errors that resulted in a potential miscarriage of justice. I bring a wealth of experience and knowledge that will benefit the Court and people of Cuyahoga County. I believe that my experience will bring added depth to the Court.

Why are you running for this particular seat? The 8th District Court of Appeals is one of the busiest appellate courts in the state of Ohio. My knowledge and experience will not only add depth to the court but significant experience working with disenfranchised and low-income people who have difficulty access the court system and obtaining justice. My practice has given me the perspective of plaintiff, defendant, and prosecutor. I believe

that running for the 8th District Court of Appeals is the next logical step. It is a court that I practice in and am familiar with how the court operates. At this time, I believe that this is the best way for me to continue to serve the people of Cuyahoga County.

Term beginning 2/12/2021 **Anita Laster Mays**

incumbent, running unopposed

Occupation: Judge

Education: J.D., Cleveland Marshall College of

Experience: Financial Systems Analyst- Metro Health; Assistant Prosecutor – Cleveland; Deputy Director – Cleveland Clerk of Courts; Cleveland Municipal Judge 2004 -2014; 8th District Court of Appeals since 2015.

Affiliations: Baptist/Black Women Political Action Committee/Ohio Bar Association; Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association/Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

Elected to Cleveland Municipal Court in November, 2003. My term began January 1, 2004, Worked as Mental Health Judge, Drug Court Judge and Weed and Seed Judge (federal program assisting ladies in the sex industry to get out by offering drug treatment, GED and other educational opportunities, housing and job training) Elected as judge in November, 2014 to the 8th District Court of Appeals. Term begin February 12, 2015 to February 11, 2021.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

Working as a financial systems analyst allowed me to understand government financial systems since being a judge you must work with budgets. Additionally, I worked as an assistant city prosecutor and deputy director in the criminal division of the clerk of courts. These positions uniquely qualified me for the position as I gained inside knowledge of the court's operations and procedures. As a prosecutor, I perfected my legal skills and then after leaving the prosecutor's office, I worked as a defense attorney. I was able to work on both sides as well as learn the administrative process. All of these skills qualifies me to be a

Why are you running for this particular seat? I am running to retain my seat as appellate court judge of the 8th district.

Unexpired term ending 1/1/2023

(Incumbent Judge Ray Headen was appointed to this seat and must run this year to retain it.)

Lisa Forbes

http://forbes4judge.com

Occupation: Partner, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease

Education: Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D. summa cum laude, 1992 / Cornell University, B.S. 1985

Experience: Fall 1992 to fall 1993: Law clerk, the Chambers of the Honorable Frank J. Battisti, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio/ Fall of 1993 to August 1997: Litigation Associate, Squie Sanders & Dempsey / August 1997 to January 1, 2003 Litigation Associate, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP / January 1, 2003 to present Litigation Partner, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease

Endorsements: Cuyahoga County Democratic Party; The Plain Dealer and Cleveland. com; G-PAC; FIIN-PAC; Cleveland Stonewall Democrats: Cuyahoga County Young Democrats: Shaker Heights Democrats; Bedford-Walton Hills Democratic Club; Highest rated candidate in the NAACP Cleveland Branch 2020 Primary Ratings Affiliations: Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, member, 1993 to present (prior to creation of CMBA, I was a member of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association) Member, inaugural class of Ladder Down, 2019 Certified Grievance Committee, member 2018 to present

Ohio State Bar Association, member 1993 to present Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Section council, member, 2017 to present Ohio Women's Bar Association, member (est. mid-1990s to 2005, intermittently between 2005 and present) Eighth District Trustee, 1999 to 2002 Program and Projects Committee Co-Chair, 2002-2004 Recipient of the Ohio Women's Bar Association President's Choice Award, 2002 Emerald Development and Economic Network, member of the Board of Directors (est. 1995 to 1997) Cuyahoga Women's Political Caucus, member (est. 1991 through late 1990s) Ohio Women's Political Caucus PAC Treasurer (est. 1999 to 2004) Girl Scouts of America, Brownie Troop Leader, (est. 2003 to 2005) Onaway Elementary School, Parent-Teacher Organization, volunteer for various activities (est. 2003 to 2011) Examples include volunteer coordinator for Onaway Carnival, organized Math Fair, created costumes for Onaway Little Theater The Centers for Families and Children, Board of Directors, 2008 to present Circle Health (formerly the Free Clinic), Board of Directors, 2017 to present Chair of the Program and Operations Committee of the Board of Directors at the Centers for Families and Children, 2013 to 2018 Co-Chair of the Quality, Risk and Program Committees for the Centers for Families and Children, 2018 to present Co-Chair of the Quality, Risk and Program Committees for Circle Health, 2018 to present Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Centers for Families and Children, June 2019 to the present Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for Circle Health, June 2019 to the present El Barrio, Board of Directors, 2011 to present (subsidiary of the Centers) Federal Bar Association, Board of Directors, 2011 Cornell University Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network, member, 2011 to present

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

The Eighth District Court of Appeals is the last stop for justice in Cuyahoga County. So, it is important that the judges who serve on the court have experience in the courts and in the community to provide the foundation to make tough decisions in a way that is legally sound, fair and just. For my entire career I have been a courtroom lawyer, representing my clients in trial courts and courts of appeals. My experience and expertise with complicated legal issues like those that the Eighth District Court of Appeals addresses mean that I will

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.





8th DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

6-year term (except for unexpired term) \$163,309 annual salary

Lisa Forbes - continued

be able to get the job done from Day 1. My intimate knowledge and understanding of how the courts work and of substantive law will provide me with the foundation necessary to make legally correct decisions. For example, I argued my first appeal in the 1990s and most recently argued an appeal last year. I have represented clients in the Court of Appeals throughout the years in between. Further, my years of experience writing briefs submitted to courts at different levels coupled with my years of experience drafting articles for publication in legal journals will enable me to write decisions that are clear and that provide guidance to the parties at bar, as well as to the public in general. But, understanding the courts and the law is only part of the equation. My demonstrated commitment to the community gives me a broad perspective that will help me make decisions that are fair and just. I have served as a volunteer on the board at the Centers for Families and Children for the last 11 years, doing my part to ensure that high quality Head Start, job training and healthcare (both physical and mental) are available to tens of thousands of the most vulnerable members of our community. In addition, for roughly the past 20 years I have volunteered election after election to ensure that everyone who is registered can cast a ballot and have it count. I do that because the health and strength of our democracy depends on people being able to exercise their right to vote. I offer my legal experience and my proven commitment to the community as I seek to serve as a judge on the Court of Appeals.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I seek to serve on the Court of Appeals in Cuyahoga County because I see the the greatest issue facing the court today as the deterioration of respect for the institution. If people do not trust and have confidence in the courts to dispense justice and to apply the law fairly, we risk a breakdown

of orderly democratic society. In recent years, there has been an increase in criticism of judges and questioning of political motivations behind judicial decisions, all of which degrades respect for individual judges and the courts in general. An antidote to this problem is electing judges who are highly qualified, beyond influence and committed to service. I am that candidate. If elected, I will dedicate myself to writing opinions that address key legal issues efficiently and that offer a window into the analysis that led to a particular outcome, to resolve the matters before the Court and toward the goal of providing guidance to future litigants. Of course, fair and just application of the law would guide every decision. If elected to the Court of Appeals, I will work to continue to be actively involved in the community as well as philanthropic organizations. The purpose behind this community involvement would be to increase public exposure to, and thus confidence in, the courts and judges. I have always been drawn to public service. I have had a wonderful career as a private practice litigator for the past 27 years. But, the notion of giving back to the law and to the community has always been important to me. Sitting on the Court of Appeals is compelling as it allows me to achieve those goals in a meaningful way. I have seen how important it is how it can change lives – when the courts apply the law fairly and evenhandedly. I aspire to be a judge because I believe that my work ethic, dedication to and love of the law, and demonstrated commitment to our community is the right mix of professional and community experience to allow me to apply and interpret the law fairly and justly.

Unexpired term ending 1/1/2023

Ray Headen

incumbent, appointed to seat

http://judgerayheaden.com

Occupation: Judge, 8th District Court of Appeals (appointed)

Education: University School (1978), Williams College. BA (1982), University of Pennsylvania Law

School J.D. (1987)

Experience: 33 years of work experience – 8th
District Court of Appeals Judge 1/3/2018 to present;
Government, Business and Finance Attorney
1987-2018; Bond Counsel to City of Warrensville
Heights, Ohio; General Counsel to Ohio Treasurer
of State; General Counsel to Lake County Port
Authority; Bond Counsel Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
& Museum; Bond Counsel Quicken Loans Arena
Affiliations: University School Board of Directors,
Chair Community & Equity (Diversity) Committee;
Thought Leadership Comm. Cleve. Bar; U. Penn
Law School Alumni Advisory Board and Future
of Legal Profession Advisory Board; Religious:

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

Deacon, Imani Church UCC, Euclid, Ohio

I have been Judge of the 8th District Court of Appeals since 1/3/2020. Since becoming an appeals court judge, I have an excellent 100% decision record. I have participated in over 220 judicial decisions with none overturned by the Ohio Supreme Court on appeal.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I have been a practicing lawyer for over 32 years. I believe my diversity of experience in very sophisticated finance and community development projects for cities and counties as bond counsel which has helped cities and counties to pay bills, provide community services to residents and create jobs has already enabled me to add very tangible value as judge on the 8th District Court of Appeals bench. Go to my webpage for the very important work that I am doing as a judge on fair sentencing and equal justice. This is something Ohio judges

have worked on to enact for over 25 years. As a result of my efforts which have been recognized by bar associations throughout Ohio and by associate justices and the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio judges are now on the verge of finally being able to join the 21st century in the use of data to ensure fair sentencing and equal justice in our courts. My experience as a business, finance and community development lawyer rather than being a trial lawyer has enabled me to be a judge who brings a different perspective to the complexities of our justice system. These perspectives are unique to me and different from any judge currently sitting as well as any candidate for any judicial bench in Cuyahoga County.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

Quite simply, I want to finish doing the job I started. By measure of none of my opinions being reversed as being incorrect by the Ohio Supreme Court, I am doing excellent work as a judge. Indeed, I could not have a more perfect record as a judge with respect to rendering judicial opinions which is the job of an appeals court judge. My opponent does not have judicial experience and does not possess this track record. But having a perfect judicial opinion record as a judge is not enough in my opinion. Judges need to do more to build confidence and trust in our judicial system. With my work on the establishment of a statewide criminal sentencing database, I have already started a movement that has brought communities together over the common sense need to give judges and the public information (data) that everyone thinks that we as judges were already collecting – but are not!!! In addition to a perfect opinion record as a judge, it is these common sense ideas and approaches to justice that I want to leave as my legacy as a judge. I recognize that I sit on the shoulders of many who came before me. I have been blessed to be a judge. I want to continue to add value to Ohioans, to our justice system and to my colleagues on the bench. For example, during my next term I also want to look into appellate standards of review for child custody appeals and plea bargains. My job is simply not finished.



If you live in the City of Cleveland and transportation is an issue for you, call Voter Drive 216-294-4261 or email voterdrivecle@gmail.com for a free ride either to the drop box or to vote early in person at the Board of Elections, or to your polling location on Election Day.



6-year term / \$150,183 annual salary

General Division

term beginning 1/1/2021

Michael J. Russo

incumbent

Candidate has not responded; he is running unopposed.

term beginning 1/2/2021

Nancy A. Fuerst

incumbent, running unopposed

Occupation: Judge

Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law; B.A. Economics, Cleveland State University, Attended Ursuline College

Experience: Judge: 1997-present; Private Law Practice 1989-1996; Law Clerk 1988-1989 Affiliations: President, William K. Thomas American Inn of Court (2008-2009); President (OJACC) Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (2016-2017); Chair, Lakeside Courthouse Centennial (2012); Ohio Judicial Conference (1997-present); Supreme Court of Ohio, Judicial College – Instructor and Mentor; Supreme Court of Ohio, Commissioner, Board of Professional Conduct (2018); Community Outreach, speaker; Outstanding Alumna Award, CMLAA (2006); Beaumont Award (2006); OJACC Dr. Bennet A. Cooper Award (2012); ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County Community Partner Collaboration Award (2012); Cleveland Marshall College of Law Hall of Fame (2019); Supporter Legal Aid, Cleveland Marshall College of Law; Various endowed scholarships & supporter of local museums and philanthropic organizations.

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court General Division: 1997 - present (24 years) 4 years -Administrative Judge, Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, General Division (2010 through 2013) Commercial Docket Judge (4+ years)

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

In law school, served a judicial externship on the Eighth District Court of Appeals; Served a law clerk to U.S. District Court Magistrate; Practiced law for 7 years handling civil and criminal cases at the trial and appellate level; Served as a mediator and arbitrator Cuyahoga Common Pleas Court ADR Department.

Why are you running for this particular seat? I am the incumbent and am running unopposed to

term beginning 1/3/2021 (no incumbent)

Kenneth R. Callahan

Candidate has not responded.

term beginning 1/3/2021

(no incumbent)

retain the seat.

William Vodrey

http://www.votevodrey.com

Occupation: Magistrate, Cleveland Municipal Court (2001-present)

Education: Oberlin College, 1983-1987; B.A. with Honors in Government; History minor. I've been a visiting professor in legal advocacy at Oberlin for over a decade, teaching students in the Oberlin Law Scholars program. In 2018, I was awarded the Alumni Medal for "outstanding [and] sustained service" to the college. Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 1989-1992; J.D. I was named the law school's Distinguished Recent Graduate in 2002.

Experience: Magistrate, Cleveland Municipal Court (2001- present); Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Cuyahoga County (1995-2001); Staff Attorney, Southeastern Ohio Legal Services, New Philadelphia, Ohio (1993-1995)

Endorsements: Cuyahoga County Democratic Party; U.S. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge; Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson; Plumbers Loc. 55; AFSCME Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO. For more, see https://votevodrey.com/endorsements/

Affiliations: Member, Ohio Association of Magistrates (2002-present); Board member, American Constitution Society, Northeast Ohio Chapter (2008-present); Member, Ohio State Bar Association (1992- present); Member, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (2013- present); Member, CMBA Character and Fitness Committee (2013- present); Mock Trial Club advisor, Shaker Heights High School (2013- present); Mock Trial judge, Ohio Commission for Law-Related Education (1996-present); Mock Trial judge, Cleveland Metropolitan School District (2001-present); Member, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights, Ohio (1995-present)

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

Having served as a full-time judicial officer for more than 18 years, I'd now like to take my experience, my skills and my passionate commitment to justice to a higher court. Most judges go their entire careers without ever having a decision officially reported as Ohio precedent; I've had 21. I'm the only non-incumbent candidate for a Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas seat this year who has actually presided over jury trials. I am ready for, and would welcome, the challenges and opportunities of public service offered by a Common Pleas judgeship. I believe I can make a positive impact for all the people of Cuyahoga County, seeing that justice is done without fear or favor, and building on the reforms already underway in this court.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

My entire career reflects my strong commitment to public service. As a staff attorney for Southeastern Ohio Legal Services for two and a half years, I represented indigent clients who desperately needed civil protection orders in domestic violence cases, and people whose utilities had been illegally shut off. Through class action lawsuits resulting in multi-million-dollar settlements, we helped thousands of people left in the cold by major Ohio utilities. As an assistant prosecuting attorney of Cuyahoga County for six years, appointed by the late Stephanie Tubbs Jones, I served primarily in the felony trial unit, handling serious crimes including thefts, gun offenses, physical and sexual assaults, and drug offenses, and also worked on

Why are you running for this particular seat?

The Court of Common Pleas handles the most serious trial-level cases under state law, both criminal and civil. I would like to take my judicial experience, my skills and my passionate commitment to justice to a higher court, and be of service to the entire county.

term beginning 1/4/2021 **Nancy R. McDonnell**

incumbent

Candidate has not responded; she is running unopposed.

term beginning 1/5/2021 **Brendan J. Sheehan**

incumbent

Candidate has not responded; he is running unopposed.

term beginning 1/6/2021 Robert C. McClelland

incumbent

Occupation: Judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas

Education: B.A. Denison University 1975; J.D. Cleveland State University 1980

Experience: Teacher 1975-1979; Attorney in private practice 1980-2011; Judge 2011-present **Endorsements:** Cleveland Building and Construction Trades, Laborers 310, Pipefitters 120, Painters District 6, Boilermakers 744, Bricklayers 5, Plasters 526, Mayor Thomas Perciak, Mayor Cyril Kleem, Mayor Jack Bacci, Mayor Paul Koomar, Mayor Chuck Brunello, Mayor Patrick Ward, Mayor Pam Bobst, Mayor Dennis Clough. 2012 Endorsements: Cleveland Plain Dealer, Call and Post, Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association, Fraternal Order of Police, Eighth District, Northern Ohio Firefighters, Cleveland Firefighters Local 93, Pipefitters 120, Teamsters 407, Laborers 860, Sheet Metal Workers 33, Bricklayers 5, Theatrical and Stage Workers 27, C.A.M.E.O., American **Nationalities Movement**

Affiliations: Faculty, Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College, 3-R's Program, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, John Manos Inn of Court

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

I have been a judge on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas since March 28, 2011, presiding over all criminal and civil matters on my docket. Additionally, I am one of 5 judges that comprise the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities docket. This is a docket where individuals charged with crimes who are diagnosed with a serious mental disease or who are developmentally disabled can be assigned and whose cases are handled by specially trained counsel and probation officers to better assist those with special and unique needs. In addition, I am a member of the Faculty of the Judicial College of the Ohio Supreme Court and teach both new and established judges in areas of trial skills and procedure.





6-year term / \$150,183 annual salary

General Division

Robert C. McClellandcontinued

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I was in the private practice of law for over 31 years before becoming a judge. In that time I was trial counsel in a wide variety of types of cases, served as an Assistant Law Director and Prosecutor for the City of Westlake, and served as a private mediator. The cases in which I was involved were litigated in both state and federal courts. I was trial counsel in over 150 jury trials in many different counties in Ohio. I appeared before many Courts of Appeals in numerous districts in Ohio and before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in the federal court system. I also had the opportunity to appear before the Ohio Supreme Court in seven cases. This wealth of experience in both civil and criminal law has provided me with the information and education to better serve as a judge. There is nothing that can make up for the actual "hands on" experience I have received in 39 years as an attorney.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I would like to continue my work serving the community, making sure that all parties in the criminal and civil justice system receive all their guaranteed rights and are treated fairly and equally. The work with the Mental Health and Developmental Disability docket has been an incredibly rewarding experience and there is a sense of truly helping people with special needs. I would like to continue to help these individuals to receive needed assistance and treatment in hopes of having them no longer be a part of the judicial system. The legal community has been very supportive of my work on the bench and my treatment of all the litigants and attorneys who have appeared before me. I would like to continue that service.

term beginning 1/6/2021 Andrew J. Santoli

http://andrewsantoli.com

Occupation: Attorney, Schraff Thomas Law
Education: J.D. and M.B.A. from Cleveland State

University

Experience: Assistant Prosecuting Attorney 2007-2019

Endorsement: Cuyahoga County Democratic Party

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List your judicial experience (courts and years). I have not been a Judge or Magistrate.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I feel I am qualified to be a judge due to my lengthy litigation career in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and Schraff Thomas Law, LLC. I litigated over 125 trials and thousands of felony matters in Common Pleas Court as an assistant prosecuting attorney. In 2011, I was promoted to our Major Trial Unit. As a Major Trial Prosecutor, I was responsible for prosecuting the most serious and complex cases in Cuyahoga County including Murder, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking matters. Furthermore, in 2019, I joined the Estate Planning and Probate Litigation Firm of Schraff Thomas Law, LLC. As an attorney at Schraff Thomas Law, LLC, I have had the opportunity to litigate complex civil matters in courts throughout Northeast Ohio. I believe this wide variety of criminal and civil experience makes me uniquely qualified for the position of Common Pleas Judge.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I am running for Judge to continue my history of public service and to make a greater impact on our community. Throughout my legal career, I have tried to make an impact within our community so that our fellow citizens can feel the justice system works for their neighborhoods, families, and themselves. As I spend time litigating in court, I have recognized a need for highly competent judges that will work to make sure our community and its citizens receive ethical and fair treatment. I hope to bring to the court a sense of fairness and empathy, treating all who come before me with respect. I will diligently work to ensure matters are resolved in a timely fashion valuing punctuality and deadlines.

term beginning 1/7/2021

Nancy Margaret Russo

incumbent

Candidate has not responded; she is running unopposed.

term beginning 1/10/2021 Shannon M. Gallagher

incumbent

Candidate has not responded; she is running unopposed.

term beginning 2/9/2021 Deena R. Calabrese

incumbent

Candidate has not responded; she is running unopposed.

unexpired term ending 1/2/2023

(Incumbent Wanda C. Jones was appointed to this seat and must run this year to retain it.)

Richard A. Bell

http://richardbell4judge.com
Occupation: Attorney

Education: J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College

of Law

Experience: Current - Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Former - Solon City Councilman, Judicial Staff Attorney, Law Clerk for Federal Public Defender's Office, law clerk for Robert Dixon. Endorsements: G-Pac, Greater Cleveland Congregation, Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, State Representative Phil Robinson, State Representative, Juanita Brent, State Representative Kent Smith, Solon Mayor Edward Kraus, Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck, Euclid Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer, Garfield Heights Mayor Vic Collova, Maple Heights Mayor Annette Blackwell. Warrensville Heights Mayor Brad Sellers, Highland Hills Mayor Michael Booker, Bedford Mayor Stanley Koci, Glenwillow Mayor Mark Cegelka, Former Sheriff Frank Bova

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

I have not run for Judge before but I am a trial lawyer with many years of litigation experience in the Common Pleas Court.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I have tried over 100 trials in my career mostly in the Common Pleas Court and I have written over 20 appeals. I have twice appeared before the Ohio Supreme Court. The following experiences have broadened my perspective and prepared me to be a Judge: 1. Former Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary of Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Associations Government Attorney's Section 2. City of Solon Councilman, 2010-2015. Chair of Public Works Committee, Member Safety Committee, and Representative of the Solon Senior Center. 3. Volunteer for CMBA 3 R's Program at the Ginn Academy. 4. Founder of "The Summit of Cities" national conferences which meets annually to set Nationwide Best Practices for testing, investigating and prosecuting Sexual Assault Kit cases 2013 – present 5. Working Group Member for 3 current Department of Justice Grants for the Cuyahoga County Sexual Assault Kit Task Force. 6. National Speaker (Washington D.C., Arlington, U.S. Congress committee, Memphis, Detroit, Cleveland, State of Washington, Duluth) advocating for DNA testing all kits which also serves as an Innocence Project. 7. Member of State of Ohio Attorney General Advisory Board to approve and build an evidence kit tracking system. (2019 to present) 8. Member of U.S. Attorney STANCE and V-GRIP Committees. 2008-2012* Monthly meetings between law Enforcement and Community Groups such as the Peace Makers Alliance concerning reducing criminal gang activity and the Violence Gun Reduction program. 9. Cuyahoga County Forensic Crime Laboratory Advisory Board 2008-2012. 10. Member Federal Joint Terrorism Task Force and Anti-Terrorism Task Force. 2002 through 2005* 11. Founding member of the Sexual Assault Response Team 2001. I trained SANE nurses and lectured area high school students and College Athletic programs. Received Recognition from Cleveland Rape Crisis in 2007. 12. Original member of the Child fatality Review Committee 1992 -1995 which reviewed the deaths of babies



6-year term / \$150,183 annual salary

General Division

and children with the Medical Examiner, police, Children Services, hospitals and rape crisis. 13. Original partner in the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program which helps people with outstanding arrest warrants safely turn themselves in through their pastors to a church where we can lift their arrest warrant and offer them a significant reduction to their case. 14. Supervisor over Internet Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking Units and supporting public awareness initiatives. 15. Appointed by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to the Joint Task Force to Review the Administration of the Death Penalty.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I believe the position should be reserved for people that have practiced in the courtroom for several years. I have tried and litigated hundreds of cases and managed hundreds of lawyers. I understand the law and procedures of the courtroom and can help lawyer's resolve conflicts and ensure defendants' rights are protected. Secondly, I believe that the decision should not be taken lightly and that it should be a vocation. I do believe that I can help parties resolve conflicts, and that my knowledge of the docket, courtroom procedures and decisions will be helpful to all lawyers and parties that have to come before a court of law. It is because I believe I can serve that I wish to

become a Judge of the Common Pleas Court. The court should address the bond disparity (referred to as Bail Reform), the Justice Center building plans, and Centralized booking with Drug treatment and mental health centers to triage people. I have provided my input to the Administrative Judge and have specific suggestions on how this can be accomplished. I am also very interested in the recent Sentencing Commission call for a Sentencing database. I believe transparency is important and will promote the statutory obligations of the court that sentences should be structured to rehabilitate the offender, protect the safety of the community and do so with the least expense of resources. The statute also says sentences should be consistent with each other. Sentences should be proportional and consistent. I believe a sentencing database will have an impact on the levels of incarcerated defendants by limiting sentences that are disproportionate. I will keep a transparent record of my sentencings and encourage the practice. I believe that a research partner to assist with the development of a data system that has the scope to track sentences by charge, victim and defendant information and fact patterns.

unexpired term ending 1/2/2023

Wanda C. Jones

incumbent appointed to seat

http://KeepJudgeWandaJones.com

Occupation: Judge, Court of Common Pleas of
Cuyahoga County

Education: Cleveland Marshall College of Law Experience: Judge since January 7, 2019
Affiliations: League of Women Voters, NAACP, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court General Division for 1 year.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. I am a proud graduate of Glenville High School. Before attending law school I was a mail carrier and I also worked in banking for almost twenty years. I attended law school in the evenings while working full time and raising my children. As an attorney, I was a dedicated Guardian ad Litem for children who have been separated from their parents or are at risk of separation due to abuse neglect or dependency. I also represented the best interests of children in custody matters.

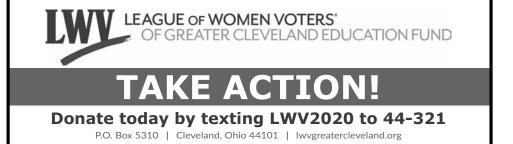
Why are you running for this particular seat? I was appointed to this seat by Governor Kasich

in January of 2019. In my first year on the bench I had more incoming cases than almost every other Judge in this court. My docket had 451 incoming cases compared to an average of around 371. I also resolved more cases in my first year than any of the other new judges who took the bench in 2019. In a short time period, I have established a reputation for having an unflappable judicial temperament. I actively practice the four pillars of procedural justice in my courtroom daily by being compassionate, fair, impartial, transparent, and allowing parties to have a voice. I received two commendations from jurors/potential jurors this past year recognizing the way I handle my courtroom. In addition to the probation committee, I also serve on the criminal rules committee in our court. I am currently working on a proposal to streamline the process of fee bill submission and electronic payments for appointed counsel. I completed judicial training while still actively engaging in our community. I conducted court in the classroom at Heritage Middle School and volunteered as a mock trial Judge in both 2019 and 2020 for Highschool Mock trial teams. I also helped Cleveland Marshall College of Law prepare their moot court team for Regional Competition (they won first place!). I am seeking election for this particular seat because I have proven that I am an asset to the bench. I am certainly filling the shoes of my predecessor; however, I am just beginning. I humbly ask for the support of voters so that I can continue making positive contributions to the Cuyahoga Common Pleas Court General Division Bench.



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is committed to ensuring voters have the information they need to successfully participate in every election. Whether it's local, state or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities.



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, driver's licenses or state identification cards set to expire on or after March 9, 2020, are automatically extended and remain valid through the November 3, 2020 General Election





Domestic Relations Division



term beginning 1/8/2021

James Cochran

http://www.cochran4judge.com
Occupation: Senior Assistant Ohio Attorney

Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University; B.A Political Science, University of Dayton

Experience: Real Estate acquisition (eminent domain representing the Ohio Department of Transportation) since 2015. Labor and employment law attorney for the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the City of Cleveland Law Department from 2008 through September, 2013. Criminal Prosecutions for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office for 7 years.

Endorsement: Republican Party of Cuyahoga County

Affiliations: Member Ohio and Cleveland Metro Bar Associations. Supervising attorney for Grassbaugh Veteran's Project (Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University) since 2017.

List your judicial experience (courts and years). N/A

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I have 40 plus years of experience in the legal profession. 30 years of that experience has been on the civil side of the legal practice. I have accumulated trial experience in both civil and criminal cases. I have appeared before numerous Administrative Agency tribunals. I have represented clients in the Ohio District Courts of Appeal, The Sixth US Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Ohio Supreme Court. More importantly, a lifetime of living here in Northeast Ohio has taught me the personal values that are important to our community and its citizens. I will listen well. I will try and determine the best arguments for each litigants' case, and work to help resolve the personal conflicts presented to me. I pledge to use my acquired legal and life skills to the best of my ability each day.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I believe that the voters deserve a choice, and I represent a different choice from my opponent. If I had ignored the RPCC [Republican Party Cuyahoga County] invitation to join the ballot, voters in Cuyahoga County would not have that choice.

term beginning 1/8/2021

Colleen Ann Reali

http://www.colleenannrealiforjudge.com
Occupation: Magistrate

Education: J.D. from St. John's University School

of Law, Queens, NY

Experience: Magistrate, Domestic Relations Court-5 years, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney-14

Endorsements: Cleveland Building and Construction Trades Council, G-PAC, Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, Shaker Heights Democratic Club, Cleveland Clergy Coalition, Rated Excellent by the NAACP, Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association, City of Parma City Leaders and Elected Officials, Teamsters Local 436, Bedford Walton Hills Democratic Party Affiliations: Supreme Court Appointed Bar Exam Grader. Committee or Board Member: Father Welsh Academy, Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland Board, Cleveland Irish American Archives Board, Cleveland Irish American Lawyers, United Irish Societies, St. Bernadette PTU; Past Member: YMCA Board, Tremont West Development Corp. Bd., William K. Thomas Inns of Court

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

Magistrate, Domestic Relations Court, Cuyahoga County, December 2014-present. Adjudicate complex interpersonal matters; Mediate high conflict disputes; Oversee all stages of the litigation process from the filing of the complaint through the discovery process and the issuance of the decision after trial; Write magistrate decisions applying complex statutory frameworks; Trained Family Law Mediator; Trained in Judicial Case Management.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I was an assistant prosecuting attorney for 14 years before I was appointed to serve as a Magistrate in the Court where I seek office. I litigated over 70 felony trials, including but not limited to cases involving felony sexual assault, murder, death penalty litigation, domestic violence and economic crime. I supervised the litigation and trial preparation for junior prosecutors. I frequently argued before the Court of Appeals on a wide variety of Appellate issues. Prior to my appointment

as a Magistrate in Domestic Relations Court, I had a very strong litigation background which is essential for judicial officers, who regularly preside over trials. I practiced in both the Common Pleas Court appearing in front of 34 different Judges with unique styles as well as the Court of Appeals. I wrote all of my own appellate briefs and argued in the Court of Appeals frequently, which is an excellent way for practicing attorneys to hone their research and writing skills. These skills are vital for judicial officers. Finally, for the past 20 years I have been invited to lecture at Continuing Legal Education Trainings where I have had the opportunity to train other attorneys on a variety of topics including Domestic Violence Criminal Protection Orders, Marriage Equality and Judicial Case Management.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I currently serve as a Magistrate in the court where I seek office. I love the work that I do. I am highly qualified, experienced and fair and have unmatched judicial experience in this race. Every single day I work to positively impact the children and families who come to my court in crisis. I understand what we do well as a court and the ways that we can improve our court so that all of the families in our vast and diverse community have access to justice and are treated with dignity and respect. I believe I have a good judicial temperament which I work on daily. I know the law and I strive to enforce it evenly and in a thoughtful manner. I work on various committees within the Domestic Relations Court in order to improve processes and to ensure that our families and children leave our court with a plan to succeed in their often challenging new life. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my own family and volunteering on various charitable interests. I care deeply about my community and the families that come to me for solutions. Most importantly, I do my job with compassion and heart which are qualities that we should expect from all public servants.

term beginning 1/9/2021 Leslie Ann Celebrezze

incumbent

Occupation: Judge, Domestic Relations **Education:** J.D. from University of Akron School

Work experience: Judge on Domestic Relations bench since 2009

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

I have been a Domestic Relations Judge since 2009 and am currently the Administrative Judge of the Domestic Relations Court.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

Prior to my judicial experience, I was employed as registered nurse. I still maintain my nursing license. The experience of caring and assisting others, is a unique quality that has served me well as I identify the needs of the families that appear before me.

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I am running for re-election to my seat as I am compassionate, empathetic and a fair and impartial Judge. The Court has made great strides with its' programs that offer assistance to the people that we serve and I look forward to further initiatives, programs and community outreach for the citizens of Cuyahoga County.





6-year term / \$150,183 annual salary **Probate Division**

term beginning 1/1/2021 Anthony J. Russo

incumbent

Candidate has not responded; he is running unopposed.



term beginning 2/9/2021 Laura J. Gallagher

incumbent

Occupation: Judge

Education: Bachelor of Arts from Miami University, Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, J.D. from Case Western Reserve School of Law, Cum Laude Work experience: Probate Judge since 2009. Assistant County Prosecutor from 1987-1996 and 2003-2009, Court Magistrate from 1996-2003 Endorsements: Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, Shaker Heights Democratic Club, Bedford/Walton Hills Democratic Party

Affiliations: President Elect, Ohio Association of Probate Judges, Vice Chair, Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Case Management, Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Civil Rules, Probate Court Forms Committee, Ohio State Bar Association, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar

Association, CMBA Civil Rules Committee, CMBA Bench Bar Committee, William K. Thomas Inns of Court Executive Board, President Elect, Catholic Lawyers Guild, Parish Council

List your judicial experience (courts and years).

I have been a Probate Court judge since February, 2009. I was a magistrate for the Medina County Probate/Juvenile Court for seven years.

What about your nonjudicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

Prior to being elected to the bench I was an assistant county prosecutor in Cuyahoga County for a total of nine years, an assistant county prosecutor in Medina County for six years and a Juvenile/Probate Court magistrate for seven years. I have over thirty-two years of public service in many areas of the law with a focus on family law issues

Why are you running for this particular seat?

I am the incumbent judge for this seat. For the past eleven years I have worked hard to serve the attorneys and clients who have come before the probate court. During my tenure the court has made great strides in the use of technology, including an online docket and e-file capability. We have also initiated an out- patient mental illness docket, a legal resource center for self represented clients and a guardian visitor program. I have a passion for probate jurisdiction including adoptions, guardianships, mental illness, trusts and estates. I am active in the Ohio Probate Judge Association and am a frequent presenter at Judicial conferences. In the past year I succeeded in having my courtroom renovated to improve accessibility, including the availability of equipment to assist those with hearing impairment.

EARLY VOTING CALENDAR

2020 General Election

OCTOBER							
Sun	М	Т	w	Th	F	Sat	
		6 8a-5p ——	7	8	9	10	
11	12 8a-5p —	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19 8a-6p ——	20	21	22	23	24 8a-4p	
25 1p-5p	26 8a-7p —	27	28	29	30	31 8a-4p	
1 1 1p-5p	2 8a-2p				LWV LEAGUE OF OH	DF WOMEN VOTERS'	

In-Person Early Voting takes place at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections 2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115





Issue 67

Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District Tax Levy (additional, current expenses)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: An additional tax for the benefit of the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 3.85 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 38.5 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

EXPLANATION: Beginning in December 2020, the bonds issued for the construction of Chagrin Falls Middle School will mature, so taxpayers will no longer be responsible for the cost of the bond issue, a cost equal to the 3.85 mills that would be added to property tax bills if this levy passes. The net result is that taxpayers will see no tax increase, but the school district will receive an additional \$2.2 million annually. A YES vote supports the levy. A NO vote opposes the levy.

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

This is not a tax increase. But it will bring in an additional \$2.2 million annually to support education in the district.

No - Against the Measure

*If this issue fails, taxpayers in the district would see a 3.85-mill tax decrease. * This is a continuing (permanent) levy, not a limited (renewal) levy that must be voted on regularly. * There is no certainty that this levy, even if passed, will provide sufficient funds to support the schools for more than a few years.

Issue 68

Cleveland Municipal School District Tax Levy (renewal and increase, current expenses of district and partnering community schools)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: A renewal of 15 mills and an increase of 5 mills to constitute a tax for the benefit of the Cleveland Municipal School District [CMSD] for the purpose of current expenses of the school district and of partnering community schools at a rate not exceeding 20 mills for each one dollar of valuation (of which 1.5 mills is to be allocated to partnering community schools), which amounts to \$2 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for ten years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

EXPLANATION: This is a renewal of a 15-mill levy expiring at the end of this year AND a 5-mill additional levy. This is ONE issue on your ballot. The resulting 20-mill levy will expire in 10 years. The 15-mill renewal does not raise taxes; it continues to cost \$525 per year for every \$100,000 of property valuation. The additional 5 mills will result in an increase of \$175 per year for a home valued at \$100,000. So the total annual tax for every \$100,000 of property valuation would be \$700. **A YES vote supports the levy. A NO vote opposes the levy.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

* Will help CMSD continue progress under the "Cleveland Plan" and pay for needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. * Without approval, the current levy will expire on Dec. 31, 2020, and the school district could lose \$67 million in funding, forcing it to cut staff and programs that provide critical services for its students. * The current levy raises about \$67 million per year; if the renewal and increase pass, the district will raise \$98.1 million per year for the next 10 years.

No - Against the Measure

* This is a levy that will continue for 10 years rather than a shorter time period, preventing voters from assessing on a more frequent basis how the CMSD uses the funds. * A portion of levy funds will go to Cleveland charter schools ("partnering community schools")--siphoning funds from students in traditional public schools.

Issue 69

Cleveland Heights/University Heights City School District Tax Levy (additional)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: An additional tax for the benefit of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 4.8 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 48 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

(This school district comprises most of Cleveland Heights, all of University Heights, and part of South Euclid.)

EXPLANATION: After the district's larger levy request failed in the spring, school district officials opted to ask voters to approve a smaller levy. The county fiscal officer has estimated that this proposed levy, if passed, would generate an additional \$5,308,990 in annual property tax revenues to help cover the current expenses of the school district. The cost of the additional tax to the owner of a house with a market value of \$100,000 would be an additional \$168 per year. **A YES vote approves the levy. A NO vote opposes the levy.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

The following statements are those of "Tiger Nation for Strong Schools," a committee that supports the tax levy; the statements have been edited only slightly for length by The League of Women Voters: * We stand for adequate and fair funding of public education as a common need. The method of funding public education in Ohio is broken. House Bill 920, which requires districts to seek approval of tax levies every few years, has been deemed unconstitutional by the Ohio Supreme Court four times. And yet, no one has fixed it. It remains school districts' only option for keeping up with inflation. Last spring, CH-UH waited for the General Assembly to fix the EdChoice policy that forces the district to pay out more than 30% of its state funding for private school vouchers. But the state abandoned us yet again. This year, CH-UH will lose \$9.3 million to EdChoice vouchers for more than 1,800 children. Fewer than 10% of these children were enrolled in CH-UH schools before seeking a voucher. * We stand for fiscal responsibility. The board and administration of the CH-UH schools take their role as stewards of the public dollar very seriously. Out of respect for the community's homeowners in this difficult time, they opted for the smallest millage of any levy in more than 30 years. The district's books are audited by the state every year and are always found to be above board. They have made nearly \$6 million in cuts over the past five years and any further cuts would cause lasting harm to our district's students and teachers. * We stand for public dollars going to public education. Our district does a careful job managing the costs that are within its control. Unfortunately, the state continues to add unfunded mandates, from EdChoice to the creation and oversight of IEPs for students who do not attend CH-UH schools to busing private school students. The district has no way to reduce these costs. * We stand for academic excellence. CH-UH Schools are thriving. From kindergartners learning Spanish and Chinese to high schoolers earning Advanced Placement honors to individualized special education instruction, our district has so much to offer. Award-winning arts and music programming, STEM and IB schools, 23 career tech pathways, 22 AP courses, countless sports and extra-curricular options would all be threatened without passage of this levy. * We stand for equity and racial justice. As the first district in the state with an Equity Policy to guide its decisions, CH-UH is committed to providing all children with access to a rigorous education no matter their background. This work requires a long-standing commitment and programmatic changes that would be at risk if this levy fails. * We stand for our children when no one else will. We are a community that believes in the promise of public education. Our schools provide the opportunities that kids need and deserve to learn, thrive, explore and grow. And to do it while being nurtured and supported as whole human beings with a wide range of needs. If this levy fails, and the district is forced to close school buildings, lay off teachers and increase class sizes, reduce course offerings and extra-curricular opportunities, we will have done a disservice to our community's children, their futures and the health of



the cities we all call home. * No one else will come and save this district that is on the verge of financial collapse due to state policies that are beyond our control. It is up to us. Our children need us to approve this levy so that the institutions upon which they rely will remain strong. * For more information, visit us at www.chuhyes.com.

No - Against the Measure

The following statements are those of "Tiger Nation 4 Lower Taxes," a committee that opposes the tax levy; the statements have been edited only slightly for length by The League of Women Voters: TigerNation4LowerTaxes is 100% funded and supported by a cross-section of CHUH residents of different races, religions, income levels, and political affiliations. We are not sponsored or influenced by special interest groups. We are united only in our desire for transparency, accountability and sound financial management from the CHUH school district and elected representatives on the school board. CHUH schools are generously funded. * According to the State CUPP report for FY2019, CHUH Schools have the fourth highest expenditure out of Ohio's 608 school districts (CHUH is within the top 1%). * CHUH Schools receive \$22,700 per student in revenue. Similar districts receive \$16,500 and the state average is \$15,000. * Our community's tax effort already exceeds the state average by about 45%. Unsustainable spending practices do not benefit students. * Taxpayers cover 94% of CHUH employees' exceptionally generous healthcare costs. CHUH employees only contribute 6% compared to Shaker Heights School employees who contribute 13%. CHUH employees have a ZERO deductible plan. CHUH Schools could save approximately \$7 million annually and avoid this levy just by bringing healthcare costs in line with Shaker Heights. * The district's August 2020 Five Year Forecast shows a \$53.2 million deficit at the end of fiscal year 2025. This is NOT sustainable. * The CHUH school board has not acted on residents' demand for a Performance Audit from the State Auditor to help the board identify ways to consider saving money. Over 1,600 residents have signed a petition calling on the school board to act. The board's stated rationale for not moving forward with a Performance Audit has been directly contradicted by the State Auditor. The last Performance Audit was conducted in 1999 and identified \$6 million+ worth of potential annual savings. * The district mismanaged the facilities renovation project. They overspent by millions on the High School and Wiley renovations and shortchanged the middle schools. * The State Auditor found that the CHUH District illegally spent taxpayer funds to influence and support the April 2020 levy campaign. * The district has sold unused real estate assets to other public entities for \$1 to \$10 each. Our community is already struggling. We should not increase the already heavy financial burden placed on our most vulnerable residents. * As of June 2020, unemployment in Cleveland Heights is close to 14%. * 100+ full- and part-time Cleveland Heights city employees have been let go due to the pandemic. * Cleveland Heights currently projects a \$1 million funding shortfall this year due to the pandemic. * The cost of bringing Cleveland Heights' sewer system into compliance with the EPA consent order is estimated at a staggering \$620 million. EdChoice is Not on the ballot. Issue 69 is not a referendum on EdChoice. * EdChoice should be addressed through advocacy with the State Legislature. * EdChoice vouchers are funded by the State, not local property taxes. * The district is inflating the impact of EdChoice by including vouchers used to support children who attend other public schools and special needs students who need services the district cannot provide. * Even without EdChoice, the CHUH District has serious financial management problems due to its spending practices. To learn more, visit us at www.TigerNation4LowerTaxes.com.

Issue 70

Cuyahoga County Library District Tax Levy (additional)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: An additional tax for the benefit of the Cuyahoga County Public Library for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 10 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

EXPLANATION: The county library system has not sought a levy since 2008, when a 2-mill levy was renewed and a half-mill (0.5) levy was added. The operating levy on the ballot this year would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home an additional \$35 a year, making the total cost \$104 annually. Library officials have said the levy would allow CCPL to provide and expand services for at least the next 10 years. **A YES vote supports the levy. A NO vote opposes the levy.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

This is the Cuyahoga County Public Library's first levy request in 12 years. The additional 1-mill continuing property tax levy would raise \$18 million annually and enable CCPL to continue to serve the public as a nationally top-rated public library system. The levy would cost property owners less than \$3 per month for each \$100,000 of home value. The library's current 2.5-mill levy is the lowest millage of any public library system in the county. But since 2008, when CCPL was last on the ballot, revenue from local property taxes has decreased by 14 percent. To cope with that loss, the library has cut expenses by \$4 million annually--but additional cuts would drastically affect services. If passed, the levy would enable CCPL to continue to operate its 27 branches, maintain virtual services (so critical during the pandemic), preserve evening and weekend hours for patrons who need access to computers and a reliable internet connection, make safety and security updates, sustain its materials collection, and continue to offer after-school homework help and training for job-seekers. If the levy fails, CCPL would be forced to cut its hours, reduce virtual services, defer maintenance, decrease its collection budget (even as the cost of eBooks increases), and scale back services like technology certification classes and WiFi hotspot lending. Crain's Cleveland Business has endorsed the levy, saying: "Northeast Ohio can't afford to let valuable assets wither. The region will not be more economically competitive with a less effective county library. The levy represents a modest investment to keep an excellent service strong"

No - Against the Measure

Cuyahoga County Public Library is a good library. That is not the question. The question is whether the proposed 1-mill continuing levy meets two criteria: accountability and transparency. There are three reasons to reject the levy this November: 1. This is a continuing levy, which means it's a permanent levy. Unlike a limited (or renewal) levy, which requires periodic voter scrutiny and approval, voters will never have another opportunity to oversee these particular tax dollars. In its thumbs-down statement, the Greater Cleveland Partnership (a chamber of commerce) noted, "[P]ermanent property tax levies for the November ballot are particularly inappropriate in [light] of an uncertain economy, potential leadership changes, an increasingly uncompetitive tax environment, and the need for accountability and structural reforms." 2. CCPL's current effective tax rate--what homeowners actually pay--is 2.26 mills, or \$5.76 per month for each \$100,000 of property valuation. The new 1-mill additional levy would add \$2.91 to that monthly bill, a 50.5% increase. The last levy, which passed in 2008 and continues in effect, paid for operations and also financed a \$110 million Facilities Master Plan that rebuilt or updated nearly every CCPL building, saving millions each year on maintenance, utilities, and staffing. Adding 50.5% purely for operations requires a thorough explanation. CCPL provides no detail about how it plans to allocate the \$18 million this new levy would raise among materials, services, and operations. The strategic plan dates from 2012. None of this is to suggest anything is amiss. It does say that CCPL's levy request lacks both transparency and accountability. #3. This is not a now-or-never proposition. CCPL can provide additional justification and submit a renewable levy for voter consideration as early as May. By rejecting the permanent levy, voters can make it clear that they require good stewardship of tax dollars. Even and especially by our well-loved libraries.





Issue 71

Euclid City School District Tax Levy (additional, emergency requirements)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: Shall a levy be imposed by the Euclid City School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the School District in the sum of \$5,600,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the County Fiscal Officer to average 8.7 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 87 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of ten years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021?

EXPLANATION: This levy was originally a renewal levy on the November 2018 ballot. It would not have raised taxes at the time, but once the millage was removed from the tax rolls, the district lost \$5.6 million per year--and this levy became an "emergency" measure on ballots last fall and spring. It failed both times. If it fails again this time, continued drastic cuts will have to be made to the district's budget. If it passes, property owners would pay an additional \$304.50 annually for every \$100,000 of property valuation. **A YES vote supports the levy. A NO vote opposes the levy.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

This levy is asking for \$5.6 million in funding to meet the emergency needs of the district's students. The previous failed levies resulted in significant cuts, including reductions in teachers and staff and reduced transportation for grades 1-8. If the levy fails again, the district will face even more cuts to the education and services it gives Euclid's students. But it will last only 10 years before voters could see it on the ballot again.

No - Against the Measure

This levy would raise taxes enough to fund the district at the level it had reached before a renewal levy failed in 2018. So property owners would see an increase in annual taxes of \$304.50 for every \$100,000 of valuation for a period of 10 years.

Issue 72

Fairview Park City School District Tax Levy (additional, current expenses)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: An additional tax for the benefit of the Fairview Park City School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 7.9 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 79 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

EXPLANATION: Fairview Park property owners will see an increase of \$23.04 per month (\$276.50 per year) for every \$100,000 of home valuation. The district has not requested new operating dollars for 14 years — the last operating levy requested and approved by voters was in 2006. The bond issue/permanent improvement levy in 2016 was dedicated to the recently completed district facilities project, and the operating renewal in 2018, which maintained prior levels of funding, did not increase revenue for the district and did not increase taxes. **A YES vote supports the levy. A NO vote opposes the levy.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

* The district's budget has been stretched as far as possible. In the past year alone, nearly \$1 million dollars in operating costs have been cut to offset recent shortfalls and keep this request to taxpayers as low as possible. * This levy will generate \$3.2 million per year in operating revenue, and will allow the district to: Continue athletics and student activities, avoid double-digit reductions of teachers and support staff, maintain smaller class sizes, avoid bus cuts, sustain academic improvements, and keep technology up to date.

No - Against the Measure

The levy will increase property taxes by \$276.50 per year for every \$100,000 of property valuation.

Issue 73

Parma City School District Bond Issue and Permanent Improvement Tax Levy

(capital expenses)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: Shall the Parma City School District be authorized to do the following:

(1) Issue bonds for the purpose of constructing, furnishing and equipping new school buildings and facilities for grades 6-12 on two campuses and otherwise constructing, renovating, remodeling, adding to, furnishing, equipping and improving school district buildings and facilities, including improvements to the existing Parma Senior High School, and clearing, improving and equipping their sites in the principal amount of \$271,000,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 37 years, and levy a property tax outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the County Fiscal Officer to average over the bond repayment period 6.1 mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to 61 cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

(2) Levy an additional property tax to provide funds for the acquisition, construction, enlargement, renovation, and financing of general permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 0.4 mill for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to 4 cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, for a continuing period of time?

EXPLANATION: This is ONE ballot issue that comprises both a bond issue and a permanent improvement levy. The bonds will pay for construction of two new schools for grades 6-12 on the current sites of Normandy and Valley Forge high schools. The new schools will have STEM labs and will be built in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College. Parma High School, in partnership with University Hospitals, will be renovated and converted into a Community Educational and Wellness Center. The State of Ohio, through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, will contribute \$69 million towards the cost of these projects. The bond issue and related levy combined will increase taxes by \$227.50 annually for the owner of a home valued at \$100,000. A YES vote approves the bond issue and permanent improvement levy. A NO vote opposes the bond issue and permanent improvement levy.

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

* The newest operating school in Parma opened in 1968. The new schools that would be built with these funds will have newer technology and resources for students. * Includes converting Parma Senior High School into a community center. * The State of Ohio will contribute \$69 million toward these capital investments.

No - Against the Measure

The district is seeking a significant increase in property taxes during an economic crisis. And the money would go toward constructing new school buildings, not maintaining current services.





Issue 74

Richmond Heights Local School District Permanent Improvement Tax Levy (renewal, capital expenses)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Richmond Heights Local School District for the purpose of general permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 20 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

EXPLANATION: This is a five-year renewal of a 2-mill permanent-improvement levy to help care for the district's school buildings. **A YES vote supports the levy renewal. A NO vote opposes the levy renewal.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure: This is a low-millage levy renewal with a five-year termination. **No - Against the Measure:** Failure of this levy would result in a lower property tax rate for district homeowners dealing with an economic crisis.

Issue 75

Richmond Heights Local School District Tax Levy (additional, current expenses)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: An additional tax for the benefit of the Richmond Heights Local School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 5.9 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 59 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.

EXPLANATION: The school district has been working to require that a \$3 million lump-sum payment in payroll taxes be part of any deal the city makes with DealPoint Merrill, a California developer that has proposed a \$250 million redevelopment of Richmond Town Square. That hasn't happened, so the district has placed this additional operating levy on the ballot. It would raise \$1 million annually and would increase property taxes \$206 per year for every \$100,000 of home value. **A YES vote approves the levy. A NO vote opposes the levy.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

A YES vote would ensure that the district can continue to provide services to its students.

No - Against the Measure

The levy raises property taxes during an economic crisis, and it has no expiration date.

Issue 76

Warrensville Heights City School District Tax Levy (renewal, emergency requirements)

BALLOT LANGUAGE: Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Warrensville Heights City School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$1,850,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county fiscal officer to average 5.1 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 51 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of five years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021?

EXPLANATION: This is a five-year renewal of an existing levy that provides funding for the school district to maintain current services. It does not increase taxes. **A YES vote approves the levy renewal. A NO vote opposes the levy renewal.**

Pro and Con arguments for and against the measure

Yes - For the Measure

This levy will not increase taxes and is limited in time to five years. And the district has improved its graduation rate by 20 percent over the past five years.

No - Against the Measure

This levy does not increase taxes, but its failure would decrease taxes during an economic crisis.









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