



## **VOTER GUIDE – CANDIDATES & ISSUES**

**For Portage County, Ohio**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION**

This voter's guide is a joint venture of *The Portager* and the League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County.

The League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County are non-partisan political organizations that promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and act on selected governmental issues. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.** The League is fully committed to ensure compliance—in principle and in practice—with the LWVUS' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

**Candidates on the ballot in Portage County**—LWV of Kent invited the candidates to participate in the on-line VOTE411 voter guide. Other Leagues in the area contacted candidates to participate in VOTE411 for races in areas overlapping Portage and adjacent counties. The LWV of Kent asked the candidates to provide biographical information and to answer questions. The candidates were asked to participate by entering their responses on the VOTE411 website in accordance with the following guidelines.

The League of Women Voters of Kent reserves the right not to publish any material determined to be libelous, damaging to a person or group, or offensive in accordance with the League's values and as outlined in its publishing policy. It reserves the right to offer alternative wording to the candidate. The League will not correct spelling, grammar or punctuation. Each candidate is solely responsible for the text they submit, including the truth of his/her statements. Each candidate is advised in writing to carefully note the character limitations listed on their questionnaire since no text beyond the character limit will be included. A candidate's answers are accepted and printed only with the understanding that the material will not be used in any way that may be deemed to be an endorsement by the League of his or her candidacy or views.

### **Issues on the ballot in Portage County**

**Issues 1-31:** Information on the issues was provided by the Board of Elections of Portage County.

Visit [VOTE411.org](https://vote411.org) to view a side-by-side comparison of the candidates' biographical information and answers.

The League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County thank *The Portager* and for providing the print version of the Voter Guide. We also thank Director Faith Lyon, Deputy Director Theresa Nielsen, and the staff at the Portage County Board of Elections for their valuable assistance in compiling this material. The information contained in this publication may not be reproduced without consent of the League of Women Voters of Kent.

**League of Women Voters of Kent** [my.lwv.org/ohio/kent](https://my.lwv.org/ohio/kent)

President: Sherry Rose

Voter Guide Co-Chairs: Nena Hankins, (330)673-0128, and Barbara Hipsman Springer

Voter Guide Committee: Renee Ruchotzke, Barbara Hanniford, Barbara Drew, and Jennifer Mapes

**League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County** [www.lwvnpc.org](https://www.lwvnpc.org)

President: April Secura; Voter Service Co-Chairs: Raji Alladi and Janice Simmons-Mortimer

To print a copy of your ballot, go to the Portage County Board of Elections web site View Ballots page:

<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/portage/ballotlist.aspx>

Select Election Date: 11/4/2025 General Election

Select District Type: Cities, Villages, or Townships e.g. *Cities*

Select District Name: e.g. *Aurora City*

Click the Find Ballots box.

Find your precinct and click the View Ballot box. The sample ballot should appear.

If you don't know your precinct, click on "searching" in the paragraph on the View Ballots page or follow this link:

<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/portage/vtrlookup.aspx>

## Key Dates

October 6, 2025 Voter Registration Deadline

October 7, 2025 Early Voting Begins

October 7, 2025 Absentee Ballots Mailed Out

October 28, 2025 Deadline to Request Absentee Ballots

November 3, 2025 Postmark Deadline for Absentee Ballots

November 4, 2025 Election Day, 6:30 am – 7:30 pm

November 8, 2025 Deadline for Receipt by the Board of Elections of  
Absentee Ballots Returned by US Mail

### Portage County Board of Elections Contact Info

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday: 8:00am-4:30pm

Phone: (330) 297-3511 Fax: (330) 297-3518

Address: Administration Building  
449 South Meridian Street, Room 101  
Ravenna, OH 44266

See map: [Google Map](#)

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## **Portage County Municipal Court Judge**

Vote for no more than one

### **Wesley Buchanan**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [wes@wesblaw.com](mailto:wes@wesblaw.com)

Education: University of Akron School of Law

Campaign Website: [buchananforjudge.godaddysites.com/](http://buchananforjudge.godaddysites.com/)

Work Experience: Criminal Defense Lawyer

Residence: Brimfield

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081459031787](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081459031787)

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

A: As a criminal defense attorney with extensive trial experience, I've developed a strong understanding of the legal process, from initial hearings to complex jury trials. I've represented clients in high-stakes cases, honing my ability to assess evidence, build persuasive arguments, and advocate for fairness and justice. This has taught me to evaluate cases impartially, balance legal requirements with empathy, and critically analyze witness credibility.

My work has also provided me with valuable insight into the roles of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement, fostering a deep respect for the importance of impartiality and fairness in the courtroom. As a defense attorney, I've learned to make thoughtful, objective decisions under pressure—skills that are essential for a judge. My trial experience, combined with a commitment to upholding the law and protecting individual rights, has prepared me to serve as a fair and effective judge.

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

A: As your Republican candidate, I'm running for Portage County Municipal Court Judge to bring fairness, transparency, and integrity to our community's legal system. With years of experience and a commitment to justice, I will ensure every case is heard with impartiality and respect.

As your judge, I will prioritize clear communication and timely decisions to make our court accessible and effective for everyone. I humbly ask for your support as we work together to strengthen our community's trust in the law.

## **Portage County Municipal Court Judge**

Vote for no more than one

### **Melissa Roubic**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [admin@roubicforjudge.com](mailto:admin@roubicforjudge.com)

Education: JD/Mtax – University of Akron; BBA – Kent State University

Campaign Website: [www.roubicforjudge.com](http://www.roubicforjudge.com)

Work Experience: Judge – Portage County Municipal Court 6 years; Owner/Attorney – ROUBIC LAW Offices, LLC – 20 years; Attorney/Consultant-Ernst & Young LLP, 4 years

Residence: Windham

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/share/1B2JtvWU2z/?mibextid=wwXlfr](https://www.facebook.com/share/1B2JtvWU2z/?mibextid=wwXlfr)

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

A: As a long-term resident of Portage County, I am involved in numerous community organizations and have served on various boards. I served on a local school board for twenty years and several years on the Maplewood Career Center board before becoming a Judge. I

currently serve on the board for the Children's Advocacy Center. My husband and I also raised our family in Portage County and remain vested in the well-being of our community. I am keenly aware of the challenges in our county and the resources needed and/or available to assist individuals and families.

I am always open to continuous learning and to suggestions from knowledgeable individuals and organizations to solve problems. This insight is helpful in rendering fair but firm decisions in all matters that come before me as your current Judge. I recognize the great trust the public has placed in me and take my responsibilities seriously. I am grateful for the opportunity to be your Portage County Municipal Court Judge and will continue to put forth my best efforts to serve our county with respect, experience, integrity and fairness.

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

A: I am just finishing my first term. I am very proud of the accomplishments my staff and I have achieved during this initial term. Cases are being adjudicated timely and my Court now has a 98%+ on time case resolution rate pursuant to the Supreme Court of Ohio guidelines. We have assisted hundreds of people obtaining a valid driver's license. Driving under suspension is the most frequent criminal and traffic charge seen in our Municipal Court. Licensed and insured drivers provide access to expanded employment opportunities for the Defendant and importantly, better protect the public.

My Court requires compliance with Marsy's Law to ensure victims are notified of court proceedings and have the opportunity to be heard. This past year I also led an initiative to develop and implement the first Theft Education (TED) Diversion and Sentencing program. This program requires sponsorship from the Portage County Prosecutor's office and collaboration with the Probation Department. TED is geared towards first time offenders and requires a plea of guilty, holds the Defendant accountable for their actions, includes an educational component of the impact theft has on the public and businesses, and requires full restitution to the victim along with an apology letter. Successful completion of this program may result in a true second chance where the plea of guilty can be vacated and the case dismissed.

I am excited about our accomplishments but there is still more work to do!

**Aurora City Mayor**  
Vote for no more than one

**Ann Womer Benjamin**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: TH1Ann@aol.com

Volunteer & Community Service: Currently I chair the Kent State Board of Trustees, I am a trustee of the National First Ladies Library, and I am a trustee of the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority.

Campaign Phone Number: 216-314-0312

Education: Vanderbilt University, B. A., Case Western Reserve School of Law, J.D.

Training & Experience: I practiced law for many years, and gained public service experience as State Representative for most of Portage County, in the Governor's Cabinet as Director of the Department of Insurance, and locally as an at-large Aurora Council member. I have served as Mayor for almost 12 years.

Q: What is the role of the Mayor in the operations of your City?

A: Aurora is governed by a Charter which states that the Mayor is "the chief executive, operating, and administrative officer" in the city and chief conservator of the peace. I work with Council on the adoption of measures including an annual budget to keep the city operating and to implement long-range plans for the city. I appoint all department heads, with Council confirmation, and appoint all board and commission members. During my tenure the city has won awards for fiscal accountability, and we have not increased taxes. We are also a safe city and have been recognized as such in the Plain Dealer. We have installed more than 3 miles of sidewalks; replaced 4 century-old waterlines; implemented stormwater management measures; opened 3 new parks; and preserved more than 250 acres of greenspace, including the former SeaWorld where we are building a new public park. We also opened the first leg of a beautiful hike and bike trail along an abandoned railroad corridor.

**Aurora City Council Ward 1**

Vote for no more than one



**Brad Duguay**

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Member of Aurora ABR, Superintendent's Advisory Council, Ad Hoc Recreation Committee

Campaign Mailing Address: 545 Walnut Ridge Trail ````Aurora``OH``44202

Education: Bachelor of Arts

Training & Experience: City Councilor of 4 Years

Q: What is the role of Council in the operations of your City?

A: The City of Aurora's Council plays a crucial role in its operations. Each Council member represents the residents of Aurora, particularly their individual wards.



Our primary responsibility is to ensure that the concerns and interests of our neighbors and residents are effectively addressed and represented in all our actions.

Council members actively create and pass legislation to safeguard the safety of citizens and ensure the city's financial stability. Additionally, they work diligently to maintain and enhance the city's infrastructure.

Collaborating closely with the Mayor and the City's Administration, Council members strive to advance the interests of the City, its citizens, and its businesses. Their goal is to foster smart growth while preserving the unique charm that makes Aurora a special city.

### **Aurora City Council Ward 3**

Vote for no more than one



**Reva Barner**

Party: Other

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 2164062401

Education: Bachelor in Fine Arts from Kent State University

Q: What is the role of Council in the operations of your City?

A: The City Council in Aurora, Ohio, has several responsibilities. We adopt ordinances and resolutions, approving the city's annual budget, addressing citizens concerns. My primary duty is to listen to and address the concerns of residents they represent. I want residents to feel comfortable to attend our meetings and feel confident that council always has their best interest. Council also oversees various city boards and appoints citizen members to these bodies. The City Council holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month. On council I pride myself on getting our community engaged and promoting transparency and accountability. My goal is to always keep the city of Aurora as a safe, friendly and beautiful place to call home.

### **Aurora City Council Ward 5**

Vote for no more than one

**Sarah Grdina Gilmore**

**Aurora City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than one



**Ralph Ware**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [office@ralphwareforaurora.com](mailto:office@ralphwareforaurora.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: Guest speaker on leadership and civic responsibility at local schools and youth programs. Volunteer mentor for veterans transitioning to civilian careers through peer coaching and resume review.

Education: MS Georgia Tech - Computer Science, MA Webster University - Management and Leadership, BS United States Military Academy - Computer Science

Training & Experience: Chair of Aurora's Architectural Review Board, Member of the Aurora Landmark Commission, Assistant Professor at West Point

Campaign Website: [ralphwareforaurora.com](http://ralphwareforaurora.com)

Q: What is the role of Council in the operations of your City?

A: City Council serves as the voice of the community and the steward of its values and resources. It is responsible for adopting budgets, passing ordinances, and shaping long-term development plans. But the Council's role goes beyond legislation—it must lead with transparency, build trust through communication, and act as a bridge between residents and city leadership. Council members should practice servant leadership: listening first, acting with accountability, and putting the needs of the community above personal preference. Oversight and collaboration are key—not micromanagement. Council should empower city departments to operate effectively, while ensuring policies reflect the priorities of Aurora's citizens. For me, the role is not about holding power, but about being of service—helping government remain accessible, informed, and inclusive.

**Kent City Mayor**  
Vote for no more than one

**Jack E. Amrhein**

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Kent Historical Society Family and Community Service Senior Corp Board

Campaign Phone Number: 330-835-8639

Education: BS Education Kent State University, Masters Degree Educational Instruction. Marygrove College

Training & Experience: 30 years Kent City Schools Social Studies Teacher. Kent City Council 17 years

Q: What is the role of the Mayor in the operations of your City?

A: The mayor is a ceremonial position in the city of Kent.  
The Mayor runs Council meetings and only votes to break ties.

**Kent City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than three

**Cecil Anderson**

Party: Republican

Candidate has not responded.

**Kent City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than three



**Eric D. Dreger**

Party: No Party

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: dregeret@gmail.com

Training & Experience: 34 years Law Enforcement experience in the City of Kent. 9 years at Kent State University and 25 at City of Kent police departments

Education: BS degree Criminal Justice Studies Kent State University

Campaign Phone Number: 330-221-3106

Q: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: To have people see City of Kent as a model city thru out the state of Ohio and beyond. To have the City of Kent operate and meet the needs of its' citizens and business in ways that are looked at, by other cities and communities, as the best example of responsive and effective government.

It may seem like a bold initiative but it brought me to the question of "Why not?". It's not as if other cities are run by people brighter and more talented than Kent. We have tremendously gifted and insightful people already in places to carry this forward. The only drawbacks would be to have a lack of imagination and consistent discipline.

If you look around you see Kent does a lot of things already to engage its' citizens and businesses with community events. I would look to continue those and ask how can we be better? Meet with planners and department heads to find ways to make our city government have a greater ease of access and responsiveness to the needs of both citizens and businesses.

Q: What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: When I talked to people in the Kent community, the main issues of concern were affordable housing to meet growing demands, our finite land space and its' sustainable use and designation and the challenges small businesses face from start up to growth and remaining financially healthy and profitability.

The answers to these are in strategic planning and long term looking. No quick solutions or answers will solve these. But, they don't need to be complicated either. For housing we would first need to define the demographic we most would be serving and point our focus. For our land space we need to consider the concerns of our long term health and well being. Clean air, clean water and environmental impact would need studied. For our small businesses, creating ease of

access and cooperation with our governmental bodies which oversee regulation and assistance for them. As before, Kent already does these things with degrees of success. The question again arises, "How can we be better?".

Q: What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: The first response to this is to have a solid budget with built in surplus. To go in prepared. What 34 years of law enforcement service taught me. Almost everything I dealt with had a big question mark at the front of it. So I would start with the knowns. What we do know about the future is there will be changes in our demographics, technology and the demands on our future work force. Keeping those in mind, I would task department heads and managers to find and propose ways where they could cut monies, from their budgets, while still retaining the best services. I would not have a hard agenda on specific areas but approach it with a curiousness. To view cuts from many angles. I would look to minimize the impact on those services that impact our health, safety and security, and our critical infrastructures like roads, water/sewer. It would be a collaborative approach with potential tough decisions I'm willing to make. Willing to go with the facts I have, even if I wish they were different.

**Kent City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than three



**John M. Kuhar**

Party: No Party

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [j.kuhar@att.net](mailto:j.kuhar@att.net)

Training & Experience: Real Estate, Ethics, Civil Rights, HVAC, Solar Tech. Marketing, PADI Association of Scuba Diving Instructors, NHRA....Professional license

Education: Kent Public Schools.....John Carol University.....over 200 hours of continued education

Campaign Phone Number: 3306785897

Q: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: My vision of Kent would be a modern version of the Kent where I grew up .  
A friendly community where everyone is welcome.  
Our schools , homes and neighborhoods are safe and well maintained.  
Our businesses are thriving.  
Employment is abundant and the cost to live is affordable.  
Our streets, sidewalks and infrastructure are in good repair.

To accomplish this I would maintain the resource officers in our schools, make some changes to our police procedure by having feet on the street in our neighborhoods and in town to create espredecore with our residents. Expand existing inclusion programs. Communication vs conflict. Our code enforcement shall continue to assist our neighborhoods. I will strive to create income streams to improve our infrastructure rather than increasing fees and taxes. This is a continuous battle and if elected I am up for the fight.

Q: What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: The major challenge is having the funds to maintain high quality services and the proper personnel and equipment to complete the task at hand. It boils down to MONEY. The most important task is to review how the money is spent, are we making the best choices? We have expenses that are mandatory and others that are elective. We must make sure that our elective expenditures benefit all and not just a select few. There are always several ways to do the same thing. We must be prudent that we are making the best choice for the money spent. I have some ideas on how to create additional income streams to help out instead of raising taxes and adding fees. I would like the chance to try.

Q: What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: When and if we get to a point to have to make budget cuts it will have to be a joint effort with the staff and the administration. Just as it was when we were in a structural deficit previously. We will re-structure some employee work hours implement a freeze on overtime, pay raises, land banking, large dollar capitol purchases. We will try to co-op purchases of commodities with other local communities.

If we have to we will have to reduce our employee base and train employees how to multi task. I am an advocate of using non serious offenders to do public service as retribution. This might fill in the gaps for labor shortages. All in all if I am elected I will do my best to make sure it never gets that far.

**Kent City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than three



**Benjamin Tipton**

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: [www.bentipton.com](http://www.bentipton.com)

Training & Experience: Assistant Vice President, Foundation and Corporate Relations – Kent State University (2024–Present); Executive Director, Foundation Relations – Kent State University (2019–2024)

Education: Master of Arts in Asia-Pacific Policy, University of British Columbia (2012); Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, Kent State University (2003)

Campaign Phone Number: 3308614189

Volunteer & Community Service: City of Kent Board of Zoning Appeals (6.5 years); City of Kent Fair Housing Board (3 years), City of Kent Salary Review Committee; Kent Rotary Board Member, Service; Treasurer Kent Episcopal Church

Q: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: Kent is where I live, work and recreate. Every day, I walk or bike to work in Kent, my kids attend Kent City Schools, and my family is deeply rooted in this community. I believe in a Kent community that continues to be a vibrant, welcoming, and forward-thinking city—a place where residents can thrive, businesses can grow, and the unique character of our town is preserved.

To implement this vision, I will advocate for excellent government services—roads, infrastructure, water, etc—and, thoughtful development that supports affordable housing, attracts good jobs, and enhances the cultural vibrancy of our city. My many years of experience volunteering on Kent City Board of Zoning Appeals, Fair Housing Board, and Salary Review Committee has given me firsthand insight into the challenges we face and the importance of making strategic decisions that benefit all residents. I will work to ensure that Kent remains a place where families, students, employees and businesses all feel valued.

Q: What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Kent needs to maintain and improve our aging infrastructure. The City of Kent is fundamentally a service organization to the people and ensuring that our roads, water, sewers, signage, sidewalks, bike paths, tree canopy, etc. are maintained and regularly improved is the most important issue to be addressed. As a city council member, I will continually raise this key issue, and when considering budget, I will advocate for a budget that balances our need for maintaining our infrastructure with the other many potential expenses of the city.

Balanced growth that maintains affordability while fostering economic and community development is another pressing issue. Over the past 15 years, Kent has experienced significant improvements, from downtown redevelopment to new housing options. As a city council member, I will address this by supporting policies that encourage smart, right-sized development—projects that enhance Kent's infrastructure and economic base without displacing residents.

Q: What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: Good government decisions start with transparency and communications with community – City government transparency and clear, consistent communication with our community are essential to building trust and ensuring that residents feel informed, valued, and heard. As a city council member, I believe our local government must operate openly—sharing decisions, potential budget cuts, and plans in ways that are accessible and easy to understand—while also actively listening to the voices of our neighbors. Transparent governance and good local news sources empower residents to engage meaningfully in shaping the future of Kent, and effective two-way communication strengthens the partnership between the City and the people it serves. In Kent, where our unique community spirit is one of our greatest strengths, open dialogue and accountability aren't just good practices—they are the foundation of good government.

**Kent City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than three



**Tracy Wallach**

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [twallach@kent.edu](mailto:twallach@kent.edu)

Campaign Website: [www.tracywallach.org](http://www.tracywallach.org)

Training & Experience: Former Member of Kent City Council , First Recycling Coordinator for the City of Kent

Education: B.A. Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo MI / M.Ed. Kent State University

Campaign Phone Number: 330-678-0540

Volunteer & Community Service: Vice-Chair for Portage County Solid Waste Management District's Policy Committee, On Kent's Sustainability Commission, Go to [tracywallach.org](http://tracywallach.org) for additional community service works

Q: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: More affordable housing for seniors and young families. Turn the river into a destination point. Make Kent more sustainable.

Regarding sustainability, the City has adopted a CAP - a climate action plan - which will help guide the City in actions towards more sustainable operations like extending solarization of City buildings beyond the fire station and water plant, solar fields to generate energy to power City services and replacing old City vehicles with electric ones. Replacing vehicles might initially be more expensive, but in the long run electric vehicles are cheaper and have better acceleration and power. Many communities are already doing this with their police vehicles with much success.

For housing for senior and young families, developers of low-income and senior housing could be partnered with to provide the right mix of housing.

Turn the river into a destination point by constructing kayak and tubing runs.

Q: What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: One of the most important concerns currently facing the City is the aging infrastructure. With the current chaos in Washington, funding is now up in the air. For these projects, green infrastructure could be localized such as rain gardens, swales and permeable pavers to offset storm water runoff. State programs could also make up some of the difference for sewer and water projects.

Providing affordable housing for seniors and young families is also a challenge. One way to approach this problem would be private/public projects such as Maple Brook near route 261 which was a result of pressure applied on the City by Council members in response to the change of Silver Oaks from a 55 and older senior complex near campus to student housing. Developers of low-income and senior housing could be partnered with to provide the right mix of housing

Q: What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: If budget shortfalls were anticipated, the first thing to be done instead of cuts would be to go to the City's general and reserve funds to absorb the shortfalls. Both these funds are currently very healthy. However, at present, revenue streams for the City are doing well and the City will meet or exceed budget estimates. In fact, all indicators are showing the City to be in a strong financial position for at least the next 5 years.

**Kent City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than three



**Sarah Elizabeth Wesley**

Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [Sbowers@kent.edu](mailto:Sbowers@kent.edu)

Training & Experience: 19 years of teaching in Early Education at Kids Kare Kent Campus

Education: 2008 Graduate of Kent State University

Volunteer & Community Service: Longcoy School Association Member since 2016 Newest member of the Kent Civil Service Commission

Q: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: I envision the future of Kent where every person in the community feels empowered to contribute to our community in such a way that everyone feels that their voices are heard and they feel welcome and accepted for who they are. Maintaining a sense of belonging for local residence and college students attending our wonderful university. I would implement this by encouraging community involvement by participating in the numerous events that the city works so hard to put on year round for our beautiful city.

Q: What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: - no response -

Q: What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: - no response -

**Ravenna City President of Council**

Vote for no more than one

**Rob Kairis**

**Ravenna City Council Ward 1**

Vote for no more than one

**Paul Moskun**

**Ravenna City Council Ward 2**

Vote for no more than one

**Tyler John Marovich**



**Ravenna City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than two



**Gregory D. Francis**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: Retired after 32 years with Ravenna Police Department as a patrolman and detective

Education: High school graduate

Campaign Phone Number: 3302214414

Campaign Email: rpd414@yahoo.com

Q: 1. What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: Ravenna is the county seat of Portage County. We should be the crown jewel of the county. We need to maintain a solid and clean community that is inviting to visitors and guests. We need to develop Ravenna through cooperative efforts between city officials and our development partners like the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Ravenna and our economic development director to attract new business to Ravenna.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: To attract more business to Ravenna which in turn will help support the businesses already established in Ravenna. The city has created a Joint Economic Development District with Rootstown is looking to restore the JEDD with Ravenna Township to jointly increase business in the areas surrounding Ravenna.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: If budget cuts would become necessary in the future, we need to work together to decide the areas budget adjustments would be necessary and have the least amount of impact on the city. Most important is to be transparent to the taxpayer to explain the reasons for any budget changes and solutions how to remedy such cuts.

**Ravenna City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than two



**Carmen Laudato**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: Nearly 20 years experience in various leadership roles with our local schools and cities in various capacities. President of the Streetsboro Levy Committee, Charter member of Parents for Public Schools (501c3), President of the Streetsboro Parks, Recreation,

and Conservation Committee, Streetsboro City Council-at-Large (Chair of Finance), Housing Council, Ravenna Charter Review Commission, Ravenna Planning Commission (2nd term).  
Lead Social Studies teacher at Safehouse in Youngstown.

Education: BA from Kent State University in Integrated Social Studies, MA from Kent State University in Teaching Integrated Social Studies

Campaign Phone Number: 330-968-5730

Volunteer & Community Service: Streetsboro Levy Committee, Ravenna Girls Basketball Booster Club, ACLU, NAACP, Ravenna Levy Committee, Ind. Place Foundation Board, LWV of Kent

Campaign Email: votelaudato@gmail.com

Q: 1. What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: My overall vision for Ravenna is a connected, and thriving community that honors its heritage, empowers its people, and allows all people to feel they have a future here. We need enhanced communication and trust between our local government, residents, schools, and businesses. Connectivity making our city as accessible as possible whether you are walking, taking PARTA, or riding your bike. We build resiliently by planning smartly around our budget challenges, flooding issues, and infrastructure needs.

We thrive by attracting and retaining small businesses and good-paying jobs while maintaining strong safety nets for vulnerable populations: seniors, low-income families, and renters.

We thrive by investing in parks and other quality of life improvements, and downtown revitalization efforts. We honor our heritage by celebrating our history, preserving landmarks, community traditions, and local pride.

People engaged, leaders transparent, and listening to residents.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Major challenges facing Ravenna are aging infrastructure and public buildings such as the police and fire stations, and city hall. Flooding and storm-related problems which are causing damage to residents and business alike. Public safety concerns such as inmates released in the middle of the night and dropped off in our downtown. Degradation of public spaces. Preying on our marginalized populations and community disinvestment by saturating our neighborhoods with bodegas, massage parlors, and car lots.

We need to aggressively and expeditiously pursue a future land-use map that retains and grows what contributes to Ravenna's success. Eliminating spaces for nefarious businesses to infiltrate. We have a master plan but we do not have what matters which is the zoning. Ravenna has a great bond rating and we need to capitalize on that, pursue grants, and devise a long-term economic plan. Currently there is no finance meeting and that needs to change.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: Handling budget cuts in Ravenna will require a careful, transparent, and community-driven approach. First and foremost I believe in prioritizing essential service that directly impact resident's health, safety, and quality of life-like police, fire, EMS, and basic infrastructure. It's not just about what gets cut but HOW we go about making those decisions; the community needs to have a voice in what matters most.

I would work to identify areas of inefficiency, encourage public-private partnerships, grant opportunities, and sharing services with neighboring communities. We need to have goal of minimizing the impact of budget reductions.

Long-term we need to build a more resilient economy by supporting small businesses, encouraging smart development, and making Ravenna attractive for investment. Budget cuts are always challenging-but with a transparent process, strategic thinking, and community input, we can get through them while protecting what matters most.

**Ravenna City Council at Large**  
Vote for no more than two



**Amy Michael**

**Biographical Info:**

**Training & Experience:** I bring 16 years of dedicated service on Ravenna City Council, where I currently serve as Council President Pro Tem & Chair of Public Health & Safety. My leadership experience includes being an engaged alumnus of Leadership Portage County and an active member of USW. With more than 20 years as a healthcare professional, I understand the importance of protecting public health & safety, and essential services. My work has focused on strengthening community engagement, upholding our City Charter

**Education:** Ravenna Highschool

**Campaign Phone Number:** 3309311434

**Volunteer & Community Service:** Family and Community Services Programs

**Campaign Email:** amymichael245@gmail.com

**Q: 1. What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?**

**A:** My vision is to see our city grow while preserving the values that make it a special place to live. I want to foster a safe, welcoming, and vibrant community where families thrive, businesses succeed, and residents are proud to call home. To achieve this, I will focus on three areas: Strong Foundations – support public safety, reliable infrastructure, and responsible budgeting. Smart Growth – encourage development that creates opportunity while protecting green space, landmarks, and neighborhood character. Community Engagement – listen, communicate, and work together so every voice is heard. Implementation requires action: partnering with leaders to secure funding, championing transparency, pursuing innovative solutions for housing, safety, and economic growth, and making decisions with the city's long-term health in mind. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected, and more resilient community.

**Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?**

**A:** Every community faces challenges, but I see ours as opportunities to grow stronger together. Key priorities include: Public Safety – ensuring residents feel safe by supporting police, fire, prevention programs, and community partnerships. Infrastructure & Development – investing in roads, utilities, & public spaces while encouraging thoughtful growth that preserves our city's character. Economic Growth – making our city business-friendly, supporting local businesses, creating jobs, revitalizing downtown, and building a strong tax base. Community Engagement – promoting transparency, open communication, and opportunities for residents to have a voice. My approach is to work collaboratively with residents, businesses, and partners on practical, long-term solutions, seek grants and outside funding, budget responsibly, & ensure decisions are made with the community. This combination of public service & professional experience has prepared me to make balanced, informed decisions.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: I believe every tax dollar must be spent responsibly, with priority on essential services that impact residents—public safety, infrastructure, and community well-being. If budget cuts are necessary, my approach is: Prioritize Core Services – police, fire, emergency response, and infrastructure must stay funded to keep our community safe and functioning. Evaluate Efficiency – reduce waste, streamline processes, and share resources before cutting vital services. Seek Outside Funding – pursue grants, (our department heads currently write and receive grants) partnerships, and state/federal resources to limit taxpayer impact. Engage the Community – be transparent and give residents a voice in setting priorities. Plan Ahead – build reserves in stronger times so the city is prepared for challenges without sacrificing long-term growth. My goal is to continue to make thoughtful, balanced decisions that protect residents today while ensuring financial stability for the future.

**Streetsboro City Council at Large**

Vote for no more than three



**Jon Hannan**

**Biographical Info:**

Education: Master's Degree in Public Administration, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration

Training & Experience: I have been serving on City Council since 2017

Campaign Phone Number: 3309315451

Volunteer & Community Service: President of Running Rockets, Coach HS Cross Country, Serve in the Army National Guard.

Campaign Email: jon.t.hannan@gmail.com

Q: 1. What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: This question is easy to answer for me because I have been serving on City Council since 2017 and have been a part of the progress the city has been experiencing. Many years ago, I feel that a good group of leaders came together and started implementing real strategies on how we can accomplish the things we can see in the city. From those early conversations, we have now been able to build things such as the Fire Station, Splash Pad, City Hall, Community Center and so much more. Along with those accomplishments, the city has invested heavily in infrastructure improvements and in our parks. If reelected, or to future leaders of our city, the best way to get things done is to work together for the common vision. We are all working towards the same goal, and that's to make Streetsboro a great place to live.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: The major challenge most cities face would be financial issues. Streetsboro seems to always overcome those challenges by being fiscally responsible. However, pending

conversations of eliminating property taxes and any other talks of items that could hurt major revenue sources for cities and schools is a challenge.

The city has been pretty adamant about not placing tax levies on the residents for city needs and have been proactive in making up for any future lost revenues but by continuing to seek out new economic development opportunities that could help offset any potential future losses.

Another major challenge would be aging infrastructure and the cost to replace that. The city and the Mayor have done a wonderful job seeking out additional money for paving, but other infrastructure needs like storm water management and water line repairs could be costly repairs. But the city is beginning discussions on how to fund that if needed.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: We have a very talented Finance Department that loves numbers and projections and also being conservative with the city's money. But on the same side of things, understands we want to give back to the community. By being proactive vs reactive and having policies in place to protect us through hard times, the city remains in a pretty good position. Our Economic Development department is also very proactive and keeps up with the news of potential budget cuts and immediately starts projections on what we need to do to make up for any future losses. My approach to this is to continue to support and trust those put into those positions to keep our city in good standing with our finances.

**Streetsboro City Council at Large**

Vote for no more than three

**Michael Lampa**

Biographical Info:

Education: Some College

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/1102795391184628](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1102795391184628)

Training & Experience: Prior City Councilman

Campaign Phone Number: 3302217591

Volunteer & Community Service: I'm an active community volunteer, serving as Chairman of the Service Committee, Senior Citizen Liaison, and a member of Friends of Streetsboro Parks.

Campaign Email: [noclue661@yahoo.com](mailto:noclue661@yahoo.com)

Q: 1. What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: I'm proud to have played a key role in bringing a state-of-the-art community center and fire station to our city. Building on that momentum, I'm committed to continuing efforts that enhance our community's infrastructure and quality of life. I also aim to lead by example in promoting fiscal responsibility and ensuring that our city's budget is managed wisely for long-term sustainability.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: One of the most pressing challenges facing our community is overcoming outdated mindsets and a lack of understanding about our current trajectory. Streetsboro is no longer a small rural town—we've experienced rapid growth and have emerged as a strong, competitive presence among neighboring communities. It's essential that our approach to leadership and development reflects this evolution, embracing forward-thinking strategies that support continued progress.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: My approach to managing potential budget cuts begins with a commitment to transparency, strategic planning, and community engagement. I believe in conducting a thorough review of expenditures to identify areas where efficiencies can be gained without compromising essential services. Prioritizing core services—such as public safety, infrastructure, and community programs—is key. I also advocate for proactive communication with department leaders and stakeholders to explore innovative solutions, such as grant opportunities, public-private partnerships, and cost-sharing initiatives. Ultimately, fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability guide every decision to ensure we continue meeting the needs of our growing city.

### **Streetsboro City Council at Large**

Vote for no more than three

**Steve Michniak**

Candidate has not responded.

### **Streetsboro City Council at Large**

Vote for no more than three



**Chris Yonish**

Biographical Info:

Education: Streetsboro High School/Kent State University

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/share/14KRhkT26Dm/?mibextid=wwXlfr](https://www.facebook.com/share/14KRhkT26Dm/?mibextid=wwXlfr)

Training & Experience: I have been involved in the community for a while now. I've had the privilege of serving on the City of Streetsboro's following committees as well as volunteering my time in various community projects! CRA Housing Council - Community Reinvestment Act TIRC - Tax Incentive Review Council PRCAC - Parks, Recreation, and Conservation Advisory Committee Planning and Zoning Commission

Volunteer & Community Service: Streetsboro Parks and Recreation, Friends of the Streetsboro Parks, BBQ and Brew Bash, Beautification Committee, Streetsboro Senior Activities Center

Campaign Email: [Chrisyonish625@gmail.com](mailto:Chrisyonish625@gmail.com)

Q: 1. What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

A: Having lived in Streetsboro for over 28 years, my vision is to continue to build a stronger, more connected community that grows responsibly while preserving its small-town charm. I want to see Streetsboro continue to support local businesses, expand opportunities for youth and seniors, and invest in infrastructure that keeps pace with growth. Community engagement is key—residents should feel heard and involved in decisions that shape our future. I'd support initiatives that improve parks, encourage sustainability, and strengthen local services. By working together—residents, leaders, and organizations—we can create a city that is safe, economically strong, and forward-thinking, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Streetsboro faces several challenges as it continues to grow. Rapid development, while beneficial, puts pressure on infrastructure, leading to traffic congestion and strain on public services. To address this, I would advocate for infrastructure upgrades, including expanded roadways and improved public transit options, to accommodate the growing population. Another challenge is maintaining the city's small-town character amidst development. I propose

promoting mixed-use developments that balance residential, commercial, and green spaces, ensuring growth aligns with our community's values. Economic growth is another key issue—while Streetsboro thrives, we must diversify our economy to create more job opportunities for residents. Our city government does an amazing job at this now, and I'd love to be a part of it!

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your City?

A: Managing potential budget cuts for Streetsboro requires a balanced approach. First, I would conduct a thorough review of all city expenditures to identify areas where efficiencies can be made without sacrificing quality, such as streamlining administrative processes or renegotiating contracts. I would prioritize funding for critical areas like public safety, infrastructure, and community services, ensuring that essential services continue uninterrupted. Also, I would work to diversify our revenue streams, focusing on increasing economic development through strategic business investments and exploring new partnerships with regional organizations for shared services. Engaging the community in budget decisions will also be key, as transparency ensures that residents feel involved and informed. Through careful planning and responsible decision-making, we can weather budget cuts without compromising the city's long-term growth or the well-being of its residents.

### **Tallmadge City Council at Large**

Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Christine Cipa (Rep)**

**Jessica Epstein (Dem)**

**Lindsay Cammel Halm (Dem)**

**David G. Kline (Dem)**

**Nick Rubino (Rep)**

**Jena R. Stasik (Rep)**

### **Garrettsville Village Council**

Vote for no more than four

**Richard Beatty**

**Tom Hardesty**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: 30 years Village of Garrettsville Councilman or Mayor

Education: BS Industrial Engineering

**Jeffrey S. Kaiser**

### **Garrettsville Village Board of Public Affairs**

Vote for no more than one

**Michael Sherer**

### **Hiram Village Council**

Vote for no more than four

**Christopher L. Cobb**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: Hardware Engineer for Philips Healthcare, Lots of IT certifications from Microsoft, Cisco, etc.

Education: Orange High School, BS in General Studies (Political Science, Economics and History) at Ohio University.,

Campaign Phone Number: 2162150255

Volunteer & Community Service: I ran the Hiram 4<sup>th</sup> of July ~ 2007- 2017, I was on the Hiram Village BOPA, the Hiram Zoning and Planning and served on Hiram Council 2014-2018.

Campaign Email: cobbcl@gmail.com

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Village and how do you propose addressing it?

A: Lack of focus on core village services and lack of clear concise communication with Village residents.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Delivering excellent services, maintaining or reducing spend. Attracting, keeping and growing personal. Addressing these will take sweat and tears. Asking questions, discussing policy and keeping focus on results.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Village?

A: Focus on maximizing value of every \$ spent. Seek partnerships with other entities and grants as much as possible. Review all services and outsource if it makes sense.

### **Hiram Village Council**

Vote for no more than four



#### **Elena Feather-Faber**

Biographical Info:

Education: Hiram College

Campaign Phone Number: 4406296094

Volunteer & Community Service: Juvenile Detention Center Bible Study

Questions:

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Village and how do you propose addressing it?

A: I feel the most important issue that has been facing the Village of Hiram would be the difficulty in finding steady revenue through other avenues than the college. As a small community we are limited in space and ability to grow our economy and finding that revenue source is paramount to the success of the community.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: A few major challenges that have been facing my community would be the struggle to have a symbiotic relationship with the college. I propose an attempt at involving the college and the



village in events or activities together. I also feel a major challenge is the lack of communication from government officials and residents. An attempt at having an open door policy with residents as well as allowing residents to speak more freely on issues that impact their homes.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Village?

A: Potential budget cuts need to be addressed after looking at past years and expenditures. Government spending tends to fall into patterns and needs to be addressed as such.

**Hiram Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four



**Juan Fernandez**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: [juanjosefernandez.com/hiram-councilman](http://juanjosefernandez.com/hiram-councilman)

Training & Experience: 1 year on Village Council

Education: Carnegie Mellon University - BA, Linguistics // Center for Cartoon Studies – MFA in Comics and Cartooning

Campaign Phone Number: 4403649243

Campaign Mailing Address: 6709 Wakefield Rd Hiram OH 44234

Campaign Email: [jfernandez@hiramvlgohio.gov](mailto:jfernandez@hiramvlgohio.gov)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Village and how do you propose addressing it?

A: Hiram's biggest issue: Maintaining financial stability while building for the future.

Since 2023, we've made real progress under the Haynam administration. We partnered with state auditors to fix past financial problems and put strong controls in place. We're upgrading our aging water and sewer systems with grants. We've added police and fire staff. We're working better with Hiram College and fighting population decline through downtown revitalization.

But we're not done. Hiram needs to thrive, not just survive.

My plan: Continue what's working while pushing harder on economic growth. I'll support downtown revitalization to bring in more business tax revenue. I'll work with Council to secure proper funding for police, fire, and infrastructure. I'll help strengthen our partnership with Hiram College – they're key to our future. We need smart, steady leadership that builds on our progress without risking what we've gained.

Your vote ensures we keep moving forward responsibly.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Trust and transparency remain major challenges—some historical, others from necessary staffing cuts. Reduced office hours limit resident access to administration. I'll work to restore expanded hours for better in-person and phone contact.

We must meet residents where they are. While Village Government posts online and expanded the newsletter, I'll use my tech background to add Facebook updates and emails while maintaining our website. I'll continue my weekly coffee chats at MORE I (Wednesdays, noon-2pm).

My most productive moments come from listening. These conversations reveal problems that don't reach Village Government through formal channels and spark real solutions. I represent you, not a government agenda. That's representative democracy: serving your interests and ensuring your voice drives decisions.

**Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Village?**

A: Mayor Haynam's administration inherited serious financial challenges and has made substantial progress establishing fiscal stability. In the last nine months, they've straightened records and created a clear budget for accurate projections and smart allocations. The current staff is exceptional—punching above their weight despite difficult circumstances.

For future budget cuts (we've already made some this year), I'll bring all stakeholders—fire, EMS, police, water, sewage—to the table for collaborative budgeting. This ensures departments get what they need not just to survive but thrive, while protecting essential services for residents.

My approach: continue the financial discipline that Haynam has established, make decisions collaboratively, and always prioritize the services our constituents depend on.

**Hiram Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four



**Sasha Gough**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577578170404](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577578170404)

Training & Experience: Many years on different councils (Student and Hall) at different points during education experience.

Education: High School

Campaign Phone Number: 3305778755

Campaign Email: [sashaforhiram@gmail.com](mailto:sashaforhiram@gmail.com)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Village and how do you propose addressing it?

A: Right now the most important issue facing Hiram that I see is the lack of communication and transparency from our current administration. A lot of the legislation that is being passed is considered an emergency and isn't given the proper amount of time to be discussed or

commented on by the Village. We also have an issue with legislation that seems out of touch with what's happening currently in our Village. I plan to address this issue by making myself more available, by allowing people to discuss their issues with me in whatever way that they feel is helpful, and pushing for the full three readings of legislation before passing anything. Right now meeting minutes are minimal and vague. I plan on doing a debrief of the meetings to explain in full what's happening and how it effects them.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Some major challenges facing our community would be the lack of money incoming to our village to help cover important things like infrastructure or other important things that need money in our village. I plan to come up with creative ways to raise money for our village, I'll look into grants, I plan to see how we can bring more businesses in that fit with our current overall feel of our town, and I plan to make sure that we're spending in a way that makes sense.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Village?

A: Managing budget cuts in our Village would be difficult to do, but it might be necessary. We could do things like make council a volunteer position that isn't paid. We could assess our budgets towards things that aren't making money, but use money. We could better assess what's for fun and what's necessary. For example, we could take volunteers for our Picnics in the Park rather than pay for them. Budget cuts are seen as scary, but they're necessary for our Village to continue not just to survive, but to thrive.

**Hiram Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four

**Christopher A. Perme**  
Candidate has not responded.

**Hiram Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four



**Graham S. Rubin**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: [grahamforcouncil.my.canva.site](http://grahamforcouncil.my.canva.site)

Training & Experience: Conservation Stewardship, Phlebotomy, Home Health Aide

Education: Hiram College Class of 2021

Volunteer & Community Service: Habitat for Humanity, Recreation and Park Board

Campaign Email: [grahamsr4council@gmail.com](mailto:grahamsr4council@gmail.com)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Village and how do you propose addressing it?

A: With economic uncertainty on the horizon, small, rural communities need to safeguard themselves by encouraging strong local economies. Hiram Village, being situated at the junction of 3 notable state routes, has the opportunity to help guard its economic prospects by

developing small businesses that cater to the local community and college students, while also diversifying opportunities in the area. It's important for the Village to encourage new businesses to set up shop, while also supporting those already operating to ensure their continued survival. Making sure Hiram has a stable local economy now will mean that the Village is more secure in times of economic uncertainty. By also building out the Village's draw with community programming, such as our 4<sup>th</sup> of July event, and developing our nature-based opportunities, such as our local trails, we can increase the consumer interest of the Village and hopefully drive up customer traffic at our local businesses.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: We need to boost community engagement in Village events by making the information more accessible in a reliable location, so the community will be able to keep up to date about local goings-on.

It's necessary to get the community more involved in Village governance by expanding opportunities for dialogue between council and community members, as well as present information and procedures from the administration with better clarity and transparency to avoid miscommunication.

We have to encourage the student body of the college to have a stronger voice in our community, by hosting student focused discussions to keep them in the loop on the Village's legislation and goals, and to hear their opinions and concerns about various issues.

Finally, we have to support our Village's emergency services and administrative needs so that we can run smoothly, efficiently, and hopefully stronger than ever.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Village?

A: The first focus always needs to be maintaining Village services and operations. The Village community should be able to have access to reliable services such as fire and rescue, trash pickup, and road maintenance without fear of budget cuts interfering in their daily lives. We also need to support our administrative team in this situation, as without them the Village can only struggle to complete necessary day-to-day operations. Instead, sacrifices will have to be made by first eliminating, or at the very least reducing, compensation for council members and the mayor. Then we will need to reduce Village sponsored programming of events, and instead rely on the wonderful ability of community members to pick up the slack by hosting low-cost events open to the entire Village community. It will certainly be difficult if budget cuts come to Hiram, but by buckling down and working together we can weather any challenge.

**Hiram Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four

**Christopher Szell**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: 8 years on Council

Education: Master's Degree

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 422````Hiram``OH``44234

Questions: no response

**Mantua Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four

**Denise Dilello**

**Christopher D. Novotny**  
Write-in

**Mogadore Village Council**  
Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**C. William Bauer**  
**Mary K. Miller**  
**Michael Raddish**

**Sugar Bush Knolls Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four

**Elizabeth M. Hartley**  
**John A. Palik**

**Windham Village Council**  
Vote for no more than four

**David Belknap**  
Candidate has not responded.

**Deborah L. Blewitt**  
Candidate has not responded.

**Angela DeSalvo**  
Candidate has not responded.

**Sam DeSalvo**  
Candidate has not responded.

**Gregory D. Marvin**  
Candidate has not responded.

**Daniel Miller, Jr.**  
Candidate has not responded.

**Atwater Township Trustee**  
Vote for no more than two

**Thora L. Green**  
Biographical Info:  
Education: I have a Bachelor and Master's degree in Education.  
Volunteer & Community Service: I volunteer with Neighborhood Bridges and The Waterloo Community Helping Hands Committee.

Training & Experience: I taught for 30+ years at Waterloo Local School before retiring, along with serving on various district committees at both the state and local level. I am finishing my first term as an Atwater Township trustee and continue to actively educate myself on the needs of the township.

Q: What is the role of the Trustee in the operations of your Township?

A: An Atwater Trustee is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the township, managing the township budget in conjunction with the township fiscal officer, and serving as the legislative/governing body of the township. Daily operations include, but are not limited to, road, cemetery, park, and township building maintenance along with the equipment that is needed for that maintenance. Fire and emergency medical services are also important daily operations, along with township zoning. Listening and keeping the township residents informed is an important responsibility of a trustee, while staying updated and implementing various state-mandated responsibilities.

### **Atwater Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Charles D. Harris**

### **Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



**Nicholas Coia**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [Coiafortrustee@gmail.com](mailto:Coiafortrustee@gmail.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: Saint Patrick Elementary Volleyball and Basketball Coach 2023 - present, Field Youth Soccer Assistant Coach 2021 - 2025, Portage County Township Association President 2019 - 2023

Campaign Phone Number: 3309573533

Education: Master of Public Administration

Training & Experience: Brimfield Township Trustee 2018 - Present

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CoiaForTrustee](https://www.facebook.com/CoiaForTrustee)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most important issues facing Brimfield Township are financial stability, zoning that balances growth with preservation, and sustainable road maintenance. We've built the foundation to address these, and consistent leadership is key to success.

Financial stability is the top priority. When challenges arose from outdated fiscal practices and project overruns, I led efforts to strengthen accountability, improve transparency, and modernize processes so shortfalls are caught earlier and reserves are protected. Zoning has advanced through the 2050 Land Use Plan, which safeguards farmland while guiding smart growth in our town center. Roads remain a challenge, but our long-term plan emphasizes maintenance that extends road life and saves taxpayer dollars.

We must also prepare for possible changes in state funding. I will continue advocating at the local and state level to secure Brimfield's fair share and protect police, fire, and road services.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Brimfield faces two key challenges: securing sustainable funding and managing growth while preserving our small-town character.

Stable funding is essential to maintain services residents expect. With possible state changes such as eliminating property taxes, proactive planning is critical. As Trustee, I've strengthened finances by securing grants, stretching taxpayer dollars, and renewing our EMS levy in 2025 without a tax increase despite rising costs. I will continue advocating at the Statehouse and through the Ohio Township Association to ensure Brimfield receives its fair share while protecting services and keeping taxes low.

Growth is our second challenge. Some want more amenities, others want to preserve our rural landscape. The 2050 Land Use Plan guides smart growth, preserving farmland while focusing development near our town center. In 2026, I will host tours and feedback sessions to engage residents and ensure decisions balance preservation with progress.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

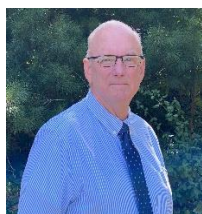
A: Budget cuts are never easy, but sometimes necessary to protect long-term stability. My approach is planning, discipline, and transparency, with a firm commitment: we will not compromise police, fire, or road services, the backbone of Brimfield.

I've set a goal of building each major fund to a 40% carryover balance, creating stability in uncertain times and allowing self-financing of large purchases without costly bank loans. This saves taxpayer dollars and keeps funding focused on frontline services.

Starting in 2026, I will lead a budget review to separate "must-haves" from "nice-to-haves." Essential services will be protected, while nonessentials may be delayed. Community events should return to nonprofit and business partners, reducing costs and strengthening engagement. All decisions will be transparent, with clear data shared publicly.

**Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



**Thomas Johnson**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [win.brimfield2025@yahoo.com](mailto:win.brimfield2025@yahoo.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: Field Athletic Booster Club past treasure

Campaign Phone Number: 234-430-9787

Education: College Graduate

Training & Experience: U.S. Army Helicopter Aviator Veteran

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578153721410](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61578153721410)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most critical issue facing Brimfield Township is the aging fire truck and ambulance fleet, impacting EMS and Fire services due to insufficient financial resources to support a planned replacement program amid rising service calls. Financial strain from cost overruns on the fire station and administrative building exacerbates this, with federal grants covering 95% of equipment costs, yet Brimfield struggles to fund the 5% match. Used vehicles are available, but limited resources hinder purchases, posing a the most critical issue facing Brimfield Township is the aging fire truck and community safety issue. I will work expeditiously to resolve this by developing a phased replacement plan, maximizing grant applications, and negotiating bulk purchasing with neighboring townships. Partnering with nonprofits to assist with fundraising for the 5% match will leverage community resources. Reallocating non-essential budget items and hosting public forums will ensure clarity and support.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Brimfield Township faces significant financial challenges, including the decision to borrow \$1 million to address cost overruns in the fire department and administrative building project. These measures address critical needs but risk long-term fiscal strain, as the current administration has not disclosed a repayment plan for this loan. Continued borrowing to cover shortfalls will create future financial conflicts. My approach includes a thorough budget review to eliminate non-essential spending. Future bond issuances, if needed, will be managed with a disclosed repayment plan tied to economic growth initiatives, like supporting local businesses. Open township leadership will engage residents through community town halls, ensuring community priorities guide decisions. This strategy balances immediate needs, like public safety, with sustainable financial management. As a candidate, I am committed to restoring trust in leadership for Brimfield Township.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: My approach to managing potential budget cuts in Brimfield Township prioritizes fiscal responsibility, transparency, and sustainability while safeguarding essential services. The 2026 projections show positive fund balances for the General Fund, Police Fund, and Fire Department Fund, with the Roads Department maintaining a strong financial position, indicating no immediate need for budget cuts. However, cost overruns from the fire/administration building expansion present a short-term budgetary challenge. To address this, I propose realigning shared administrative costs—such as payroll and IT—across departments like police, fire, and roads to ensure accurate expense tracking and enhance accountability. Maintaining robust long-term reserves is critical to buffer against unforeseen expenses, such as additional construction costs or economic downturns, securing Brimfield Township's financial stability for the future.

**Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Bruce W. Knippenberg**

Candidate has not responded.



## **Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



### **Daniel Mars**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [dmars73@gmail.com](mailto:dmars73@gmail.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: Coached Youth Soccer, Served a two-year mission, Habitat for Humanity Volunteer, Former BSA Scoutmaster and Merit Badge Counselor

Campaign Phone Number: 3303284337

Education: Field HS Graduate, bachelor's degree from BYU-Idaho

Training & Experience: Former small business owner, Former treasurer of Southern Portage Non-profit housing, Eagle Scout

Campaign Website: [sites.google.com/view/danmars](https://sites.google.com/view/danmars)

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579749982686](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579749982686)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: There are a number of important issues facing Brimfield currently. One of the most important issues, however, is the unprecedented growth in our township. While development is inevitable, it needs to be controlled in order to not overburden basic community services like schools, fire, and police. I plan to work with the Zoning Commission on a well-planned and updated zoning code and land use plan which is essential for regulated expansion.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: In addition to township growth, the other key challenges include budget, budget, and budget. First off, our police, fire, and road department heads deserve a commendation for working united to help the township meet its current financial commitments. As a township, however, we need to be wiser with spending. I commit that if elected as a trustee, I will stay apprised of current spending and set long-term goals to wisely stretch tax dollars as far as possible.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: I pledge that when elected as trustee, I will maintain the essential services of police, fire, and roads to their full capacity. I will work with department heads to explore other funding options such as grants and community sponsorships for nonessential services.

## **Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

### **James McKey**

Candidate has not responded.

**Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Charles Prather**

Candidate has not responded.

**Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Kevin Scott**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [jkscott40@yahoo.com](mailto:jkscott40@yahoo.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: involved with 4H / FFA

Campaign Phone Number: 3306063104

Education: Field/ Maplewood 1988 OSU 1991

Training & Experience: business owner : Kevin Scott Trucking , Scott farm Market & Greenhouse

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579753881874](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579753881874)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: Brimfield Twp. is having budget issues. Over spending seems to be the issue . To address the budget takes a common sense business approach, to cut unnecessary spending. It doesn't have to be major cuts, just stop spending what we don't have. The current Trustees have borrowed from police, fire, and roads in order to make payroll. and to pay invoices due on the new fire station. Borrowing from our future tax revenue, just kicks the can down the road

Being a successful business owner would be helpful in making better financial decisions for the township

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: The major issues are the budget short falls, and over development of our rural community the budget issues as addressed above, would include a more business approach to the tax money being spent.

The development of our rural property, could be addressed by not giving the developers every zoning variance that they ask for. Enforce the plan that is in place, instead changing so a developer can increase the profit margin, while the residence of Brimfield suffer the consequences after the developer leaves town.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Managing the budget of Brimfield, Should be handled as a business, which it is. The Township is to handle tax revenue in a responsible manner returning it to the taxpayers in the form of services. I am confident that some of the excess spending could be avoided by different perspective and ideas.

I have requested public budget records from the township, to get a better idea of the issues behind the problems. As of 8-16-25 I haven't received the records, its difficult to have a real solution to a problem without solid facts and information. I am certain a business owners view would be a start in the right direction.

## **Brimfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

### **Robert C. Zacher**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [vote4zacher@gmail.com](mailto:vote4zacher@gmail.com)

Education: Bachelor Of Science Kent State University,

Training & Experience: FAA Certified Commercial Pilot, Flight Instructor, FAA Certified Mechanic

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most important issue facing Brimfield Township is future growth. Before any additional residential housing are approved, the 50 year comprehensive plan should be reevaluated with the current growth and the next 10 years planned out. This study must evaluate the impact of population increases on our schools, utilities, transportation infrastructure, police, fire and other essential services. Right now, the effects of over development are already being felt. For example Edson and Sherman Roads have seen significant increases in traffic, resulting in speeding, family pets and wildlife being killed and traffic backups during peak hours. Our ecosystem also needs to be maintained with the increase of population. Brimfield needs to take a measured, data-driven approach to growth, ensuring our Infrastructure and community services are prepared before more housing is built.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Future growth in Brimfield should focus on private small business development rather than more corporate chains, gas stations, hotels or rehabilitation facilities, which we already have in abundance. To achieve this, the Township should explore developing an incentive program to attract and retain small businesses that can bring unique value to the community. A feasibility study should also be conducted to assess the best strategies for promoting balanced growth. Supporting local farmers is critical-helping them remain viable so they are not pressured to sell land to developers. Protecting farmland and open space will preserve the character of Brimfield while creating room for responsible, small scale commercial development that benefits all residents. By prioritizing small business, farmland preservation, and thoughtful planning, Brimfield can grow in a way that maintains community values and improves the quality of life for all residents.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Financial responsibility is the foundation of any successful township. Just as I live within a budget at home, I will treat township funds with the same care and discipline—as if they were my own.

Every department is essential. Police and Fire protect our residents, while zoning, roads, and fiscal employees keep the Township functioning. Without strong support in these areas, the Township cannot deliver the services that make Police and Fire possible.

If budget changes are ever required, they will be made by the elected board of trustees. The residents have already placed their trust in this board at the ballot box, and it is their responsibility to make fair, balanced, and transparent decisions that serve the best interests of the Township

**Brimfield Township Fiscal Officer**

Vote for no more than one

**Jasmine Golden**

Candidate has not responded.

**Brimfield Township Fiscal Officer**

Vote for no more than one

**Blake Johnson**

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Field Athletic Boosters (3 years)

Campaign Mailing Address: 1658 Sandy Lake Road````Ravenna``OH``44266

Education: Attending Kent State University

Q: 1. If the trustees asked the fiscal officer if there are enough funds for a major project, what factors would you consider in preparing your response?

A: I would consider checking a few things before responding. First, I'd look at the balances of all relevant funds that would pay for the project to make sure there is enough, since some funds may only be used for certain purposes. Next, I'd review the total cost of the project, via the bids provided by the trustees. I'd also confirm current and projected revenues like property taxes and grants with the county auditor. Finally, I'd check the existing obligations to avoid overextending the budget. If funds are available and align with the funds purpose, I'd certify availability; if not, I'd recommend amending the budget or pursuing other sources of revenue.

Q: 2. What do you consider to be the most important responsibilities of the Fiscal Officer?

A: I believe that the most important responsibilities of the Fiscal Officer is to safeguard the township's funds and ensuring transparency. First, the Fiscal Officer must ensure funds are spent within the guidelines of the Ohio Revised Code. Second, maintaining accurate records of receipts, disbursements, and balances keep the books ready for an audit. Third, certifying unencumbered funds before project commitments to avoid deficits. Finally, providing clear financial reports so trustees and residents can see how money is being managed and to make informed decisions.

**Charlestown Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Adam Eskridge**

**Charlestown Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



**Katie Pahls**

Biographical Info:

Education: Bachelor of Science, KSU

Q: What is the role of the Trustee in the operations of your Township?

A: Trustees are the elected officials responsible for guiding the overall operation of the township. They make decisions on road maintenance, safety services, parks, cemeteries,

zoning, and the care of township property. Trustees also adopt the township's budget, manage tax dollars responsibly, and work to ensure that local services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

In addition to these responsibilities, Trustees serve as the community's voice in county and regional matters. They are often the first point of contact when residents have concerns or questions about township services. In short, Trustees are the local leaders who balance fiscal responsibility with the duty to meet the needs of the community.

I see the role of Trustee as not only maintaining what works well today but also planning for the future so that our township continues to be a safe, welcoming, and well-run place to live.

### **Deerfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

#### **Ed Dean**

Candidate has not responded.

### **Deerfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



#### **Tiffany L. Havens**

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Member of the Deerfield Historical Society, Member of the America Legion Auxiliary, Volunteer: Akron Canton Food Bank, Haven of Rest Shelter, REACH Center, Attend Deerfield United Methodist Church

Campaign Email: [electtiffanyhavens@gmail.com](mailto:electtiffanyhavens@gmail.com)

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tiffany.havens.37351/](https://www.facebook.com/tiffany.havens.37351/)

Campaign Phone Number: 330-322-6768

Education: BSN from Kent State University, Master's Degree from Chamberlain University, 2025 Graduate- Leadership Akron's Tony Gorant Community Leadership Institute (CLI)

Training & Experience: Family Nurse Practitioner, Certified and accomplished Grant Writer, proven Director and Chairman experience, over 500 hours of professional continuing education throughout term.

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most important issue facing Deerfield Township is ensuring our emergency services are strong, well-equipped, and responsive to the needs of our residents. Our first responders are the backbone of community safety, and we owe it to every resident in Deerfield to make sure they have the support and resources they need. I propose working directly with our fire and EMS departments to identify their top priorities, pursue grants and outside funding to reduce costs for taxpayers, and foster stronger cooperation across agencies. By putting Deerfield first

and working together, we can ensure every call for help is answered quickly, effectively, and with the highest level of care possible.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: The major challenges facing our community are maintaining reliable emergency services, managing rising costs without overburdening taxpayers, and ensuring that residents feel connected and included in Township decisions. Emergency services are the foundation of public safety, and we must continue to secure outside funding to provide our first responders with the resources they need. At the same time, inflation and budget pressures make it essential to spend wisely, focusing on priorities that directly serve our residents. Strengthening partnerships with neighboring agencies for training, planning, and emergency response coordination will also help us improve service while keeping costs down. Finally, as our community grows and changes, we must keep people informed and engaged through open communication. By working together, we can overcome these challenges and keep Deerfield safe, affordable, and connected.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: With today's economy, families are already feeling the strain of higher costs, and our Township government must be especially careful with every dollar. My approach to managing potential budget cuts is to protect essential services first, especially emergency services, while making sure we spend wisely and avoid unnecessary expenses. Inflation has increased the cost of everything from fuel to equipment, so it's more important than ever to pursue grants and outside funding to ease the burden on taxpayers. Wherever possible, we should also complete projects in-house instead of outsourcing, which saves money and makes use of the talent we already have on staff. I also believe in collaboration — working with neighboring agencies and community partners where it makes sense and benefits our residents — so we can deliver services more efficiently. By focusing on smart budgeting, in-house solutions, outside funding, and strong partnerships, we can weather economic challenges.

**Deerfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Zachary Ranta**

Candidate has not responded.

**Deerfield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Vaughn Sutcliffe**

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Member of the Deerfield United Methodist Church

Campaign Email: [vaughnfortrustee@yahoo.com](mailto:vaughnfortrustee@yahoo.com)

Campaign Phone Number: 330-428-0650

Education: Southeast High School

Training & Experience: 37 years Deerfield vol. Fire Department 21yrs Assistant Chief 1year Chief

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most important issue facing not only our township but many other neighboring townships (a lot) around the area is staffing and financing the first responders for our fire protection and emergency medical transport. I feel with my 30+ years on the Deerfield Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter EMT-B I have a unique ability to be able to work with the

department, fellow trustees and the citizens of Deerfield to come up the best plan to provide the best service while remaining financially responsible.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: The major challenge is getting the community to trust in the board of trustees again. I will do this by bringing integrity and honesty back to the board and by stopping the drama. I will work together with fellow trustees so we all succeed. If we all succeed together the township will be a much better place.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: I will approach potential budget cuts with a positive attitude in going line by line through the township financials looking for the best way to save money getting the most with as little as possible, and working with the heads of each department. I will use my experience working with the grant writers of the last fire department administration in which we were awarded \$500,000.00 in grants.

### **Edinburg Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

#### **Chris Diehl**

Candidate has not responded.

#### **Jeff Grossenbacher**

Candidate has not responded.

#### **Tim Pfile**

Candidate has not responded.

### **Franklin Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



#### **Kellie Kapusta**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [kelliekhomes@gmail.com](mailto:kelliekhomes@gmail.com)

Education: Ravenna High School, Kent State University

Training & Experience: Served a term as Trustee 2022-2025, 30 years of serving the public with their real estate needs, 9 years as a director on the Portage Board of Realtors, 8 years as chair of professional development for the Portage County Board of Realtors

Campaign Phone Number: 3303889905

Q: What is the role of the Trustee in the operations of your Township?

A: My role as a township trustee is to make sure our community's needs are met by overseeing operations such as road maintenance, safety services, parks, and local assistance programs. I help set priorities, approve budgets, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently

and transparently. While township employees handle daily tasks, it is my responsibility, along with my fellow trustees, to make sure those operations reflect the values and best interests of our residents. What I value most in being a trustee in our township is serving a nonpartisan role. My focus isn't on party politics, but on working with everyone in our community - to listen, solve problems, and make decisions based on the needs of our residents, not a political agenda. This is a role that gives opportunity to listen to all voices and serve every member of our community with fairness and respect.

**Franklin Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**William Glenn Russell**

**Freedom Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Tom Mesaros**

Candidate has not responded.

**Freedom Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Kevin A. Pitsinger, Sr.**

Candidate has not responded.

**Freedom Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



**Charlene D. Walker**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [wcharwalker@aol.com](mailto:wcharwalker@aol.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: Freedom Township Historical Society

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/183440923902028](https://www.facebook.com/groups/183440923902028)

Campaign Phone Number: 3303222658

Education: Associate Degree- Kent State University

Training & Experience: 32 Years of Professional Experience in a Fortune 100 company

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: When I first stepped into the role of trustee, one of the most pressing concerns I heard from our community was the lack of reliable internet service. Recognizing how vital connectivity is for education, business, and daily life, I took immediate action—making phone calls, attending



meetings, and advocating for Freedom Township at the county level. Thanks to those efforts, within a year, Spectrum began installing fiber lines to bring high-speed internet to our area. Looking ahead to the next term, my focus remains on keeping the township running efficiently while making fiscally responsible decisions. We've made significant progress, and I am committed to building on that momentum without compromising our financial stability. As always, I consider it a privilege to serve this community. I will continue to listen to your concerns, represent your interests, and ensure that Freedom Township has a strong and respected voice in every conversation that affects our future.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: One of the most consistent messages I've received—both through conversations and community engagement—is that our residents value Freedom Township's rural character and want to preserve it. I share that commitment and will continue to actively participate in zoning board meetings to ensure that the voices of our residents are represented and respected in all land use decisions.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Over the past four years, our township has made significant investments to update all road equipment. These purchases were necessary to ensure the safety and efficiency of our road operations. As we move forward, it is fiscally responsible to prioritize paying off these existing loans before considering any new borrowing. This approach will help stabilize our budget and reduce long-term financial strain.

A rotational road schedule has been implemented to ensure consistent road repairs and upgrades. This system allows us to maintain infrastructure without overwhelming the budget in any single fiscal year.

In the event of budget cuts, all non-essential expenditures will be suspended. Priority will be given to maintaining core services. Snow and ice removal will continue to ensure safe travel for residents. Cemetery Maintenance mowing and upkeep will be preserved out of respect for our community and its history.

**Hiram Township Trustee**  
Vote for no more than two

**Debra A. Blake**  
**Steven Pancost**

**Mantua Township Trustee**  
Vote for no more than two

**Matthew S. Benner**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 330-931-6210

Training & Experience: Professional Firefighters School Tri C Community College 1981, state certified fire inspector, state certified fire instructor, state certified arson investigator 1 & 2, state certified fire inspector instructor. Have taken many leadership, accountability and diversity classes at the state level, along with state mandated continuing education classes. After 36 years of public service, I carry a deep understanding of all facets of Government.

Education: Crestwood High School Graduate 1979, Maplewood JVS Graduate Auto Mechanics 1979. Akron City Hospital Paramedic School 1983.

Campaign Email: mbenner48@yahoo.com

Volunteer & Community Service: Parrot Hope Rescue

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most pressing issue facing our township, in my opinion, is safety. This encompasses ensuring timely and effective plowing and salting of our roads during winter, maintaining our roadways in spring through chip sealing or paving as necessary, and guaranteeing the presence of all requisite signage on our roadways. Furthermore, it is essential that all township buildings are ADA compliant and up to date regarding state building, health, and fire codes.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: One of the challenges facing Mantua Township is a lack of water supply for fire protection to the business district within the Township. With anticipated future growth in the Township, the existing infrastructure in Mantua Township, including State Route 44 and 82 and Timber Point Trail, is inadequate. I propose collaborating with the Portage County Board of Commissioners, Portage County Water Resources, and Portage County Engineers to pursue grant funding from the state of Ohio or federal grants to provide water supply to the Mantua Corners area at no cost to Mantua Township. Supporting infrastructure development is a concern for townships due to the new agricultural developments, tourism and new developments emerging at a rapid pace.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Potential budget culture is a concern for townships across Ohio as declining operational funding is always a concern for these entities. Currently, they continue to rely on grant funding to offset the loss of revenue. Furthermore, to maintain fiscal responsibility and prudent spending, the township would need to pursue additional grants for operational expenses, paving projects, building repair and maintenance and cemetery needs. Many townships will need to engage in group purchasing by bulk material, such as salt, gravel, culvert pipes.

**Mantua Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Graham Harmon**

Candidate has not responded.

**Mantua Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Susan Lilley**

Candidate has not responded.

**Nelson Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Lowell A. Jones**

Candidate has not responded.

**Joe Leonard**

Candidate has not responded.

**Brandon Nutter**

Candidate has not responded.

**Anna M. Vanderhoeven**

Candidate has not responded.

**Palmyra Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Megan A. Coss**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 3306966319

Education: Southeast High School

Training & Experience: Zoning board of commissions, Palmyra Township Trustee

Campaign Mailing Address: 9312 Tallmadge Rd````Diamond``OH``44412

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most important issue facing our township is the fire department staffing. Like other townships our staffing remains a struggle. We are currently hiring and need to improve our recruitment while staying within our budget.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: The biggest challenge facing our community is maintaining our rural identity while accepting growth and changes. Working closely with our zoning board and prosecutors office to enforce the zoning rules.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Just as in our own households, sometimes it is necessary to tighten the belt and live within your means.

**Palmyra Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Thomas Grund**

Candidate has not responded.

**Palmyra Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Henry Michael**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 330-519-1381

Education: Associate's Degree in Agriculture from Ohio State University

Training & Experience: Palmyra Township trustee, 20 years; business director, Southeast Local Schools, 5 years, retired

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: One very important issue we need to focus on is the manpower shortage of the fire department. I feel we need to look at what might make our fire department a more appealing place to work. If we can do that, we might retain the valuable staff that we have now and attract the same in the future.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: I am interested in maintaining the rural feel of our township. We need to be able to grow our township, while keeping the rural community that we have. I feel this is one of the things that draws new residents to our township. The best way to address this challenge is to take a good,

hard look at our zoning regulations to make sure any changes are in the best interests of the township.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Budget cuts are always a hard and painful decision to make, but in my experience as a trustee, we had managed budget cuts from the state to our general fund circa 2010. At that time, we were not able to complete any new paving projects, but we worked hard on patching and chip/seal projects to keep the roads in the best shape possible.

I also experienced budget cuts to the fire department as a trustee. We had to reduce staffing hours, and closely monitor equipment and repairs until we were able to secure additional funding via levy replacements.

Budget cuts are an unfortunate reality sometimes with the rising costs of equipment, supplies, and wages. I strongly feel that, just as a household should, the township needs to live within its means, and be financially responsible to residents.

**Paris Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**David A. Kemble**  
**Dorene M. Spicer**

**Randolph Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Nick Reynolds**  
**Susan White**

**Ravenna Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Kristi Blazek-Hack**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: I have been honored to serve on the Ravenna Township Zoning Commission for multiple years. I also work as a real estate advisor with Keller Williams Chervenik Realty, where I have been helping clients reach their goals since 2012.

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580417132776](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61580417132776)

Campaign Email: [trustinkristi@yahoo.com](mailto:trustinkristi@yahoo.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: I've been active in youth sports-coaching soccer, volunteering with the Relay for Life and within the school districts. I am looking forward to volunteering at Kent Social Services.

Campaign Phone Number: (330)428-1745

Education: Graduate of Kent State University-Bachelor of Arts- Psychology

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: I want our community to be "connected." I think all sides can agree that the current climate is not what we want our children to grow up in. What connects us rather than divides us? Coming together for community events is essential. This is one reason I have volunteered so heavily for the township trunk or treat for multiple years, during my time on the Ravenna Township Zoning Commission. There is trick or treating, photos, a cookout and more all put on by people who live and work in the community. While the candy and costumes are fun, it's more than that. It's a time for everyone of all kinds to gather, get to know each other and build connections. Many local businesses, first responders, trustees and more participate, creating a sense of community and pride. I plan on continuing this tradition, as well as forming new

opportunities for the community to connect. My goal is a thriving township, where families connect and live safely. A connected community is a strong community.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: Many townships face the same challenge- Economic development vs. preservation. We have to keep up with rising costs, which means we need to nurture our economic development. However when we look at new business and growth, it is important to make sure the benefits are fruitful, while also being careful to preserve all the things that make Ravenna Township a beautiful place to live. We are fortunate to have small town character mixed with rural charm. My 15 years in selling and advising real estate transactions and zoning, allows me to understand the impact of growing responsibly. As trustee I would work hard to make sure the township grows in a manner that accommodates our current residents, while also attracting new families to want to thrive here.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Transparency. I want residents to understand where their money is being attributed to. When we face tough times our residents have to be confident their dollars are being used wisely. I will take extra care on my part to make sure I make myself accessible within public settings such as at coffee shops, the library etc. I will happily sit down with concerned community members and have Q & A sessions. I hope to create spaces where residents feel comfortable asking questions & feeling respected while doing so. A wise man once told me "When you have a problem bring me two solutions and we will figure it out together." We must also try to pool our resources within our own community. When budget cuts are made it's important to review current and future contracts. We have so many vital business resources in our own township and neighboring areas. Rather than cuts, there must be a way to build partnerships within. I may not have the solution immediately, but I will work tirelessly to find one.

### **Ravenna Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



**Vince Coia**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: Township Trustee since 2010; Former curriculum advisor for Maplewood Career Center in Agricultural Mechanics; Parts and Sales Manager for Coia Implements Inc for 30+ years

Campaign Email: [vcoia625@gmail.com](mailto:vcoia625@gmail.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: Volunteer with Raven Packs with assembly and transportation, member of Ravenna Elks and Ravenna Eagles

Campaign Phone Number: 3303100703

Education: Ravenna High School Graduate; numerous continuing education for management and township operations

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most important issue facing all Townships is the possibility of losing most of our funding if the proposed constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes would get on the ballot and pass next year. I have been talking to county and state officials who are also aware of the implications. There are discussions of possibly going back to the property valuations before they were raised and future increases would be no more than the rate of inflation. I also have been talking to residents to let them know how important it is to keep taxes in place because these taxes pay for the Fire protection services and EMS functions as well as plowing and repairing the roads.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: We still see challenges with workforce availability in skilled occupations in the community. I plan to visit our high school and career center to see if new class offerings are possible and to let the students know there are jobs available right after graduation. Homelessness continues to be a challenge and we work with the local shelters to help those people in need. Food insecurity with the schools is a problem. I work hand in hand to help provide food items to help bridge the gap with students.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Working closely with the fiscal officer, we approve budgets that take the most conservative approach possible. We are cutting staff where necessary. I have also given consideration to making myself available to assist the road department with work where they may be temporarily short handed, such as brush chipping, picking up bagged leaves, or mowing and trimming at the cemetery. Should the property tax elimination or reduction take effect, I will work closely with other state and local officials to find the best way forward.

**Ravenna Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Jason Mack**

Candidate has not responded.

**Rootstown Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Caleb Cutright**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 3302214482

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/caleb.cutright.50](https://www.facebook.com/caleb.cutright.50)

Campaign Email: [rootstown.caleb25@gmail.com](mailto:rootstown.caleb25@gmail.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: Rootstown High School Mentor (2024), National honors society hours (2023)

Education: Rootstown High School diploma, Currently going for B.S. (Bachelor of Science)

Training & Experience: Rootstown High School Portage County Teen Board Representative (2023)

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: I believe the most important issue facing our township is the affordability of housing. Current residents of age have their own personal struggles with buying a house that they will be able to fully own in their lifetime however, I severely worry about the prospects of my next generation

being able to buy a home. As inflation continues to grow, debts become more extreme, and salaries continue to not match the average cost of living I believe the generations to come will have to deal with these consequences. In fact today we already see the beginning of these struggles. The rates of young adults living with their parents is currently at 58% compared to that of 29% in 1990. As well as the rate of people choosing to rent being around 34%. While the township cannot control national economic trends, I propose addressing the home ownership issue by one supporting senior-friendly living, two by working with nonprofit/state housing agencies, and three by creating/expanding a land bank.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: I believe there are 3 major challenges facing my community. Housing affordability, property value evaluation, and exponential growth of the community. Like I stated in my first response I am not sure how the next generations will ever be able to fully own their houses/support their families, especially if moving and purchasing a second home. For instance, in order to match the cost to run a household in 1995 vs 2025 jumped from \$33,456 to \$118,764, when the median salary of Americans in 1995 was \$34,075 and in 2025 it is a harsh low of \$62,088. The second issue of property value evaluation is tricky. The community has already seen issues of property being undervalued, and the issue will continue to get worse. As companies such as BlackRock buy up the property in the Cleveland area, I fear with incorrect property evaluation that these corporations may begin to purchase the cheap/undervalued property in the rural areas. As for exponential growth the more people we have, the more strain.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Though I am not currently elected I have been keeping up with our trustee meetings. Unfortunately budget cuts have impacted how the township is currently run, and more cuts could be on the way. If budget cuts are to happen I would suggest emphasizing fiscal responsibility/transparency. One example will be by prioritizing essential services. The road, zoning, and fire departments would be held as close to one-hundred percent capabilities as possible. Two I would suggest looking for efficiency and partnerships. The current chair members currently do this very well and I would continue that thought process. To rely on others and be an ally to surrounding townships can be very beneficial, as I believe we already are in some small partnerships with Ravenna township. Finally, I would help to plan for the long term. Specifically by maintaining "rainy-day funds" during the townships good years, using multi-year budgeting to anticipate future needs, and to delay non-critical spending if needed.

### **Rootstown Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

#### **Brett A. Housley**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 2167891214

Campaign Email: [bretthousley@icloud.com](mailto:bretthousley@icloud.com)

Volunteer & Community Service: A member of the Rootstown Lions Club since September 2014. I chair the Veteran's Banner Display & annual coat drive. I also enjoy grilling burgers & hot dogs at high school football games.

Education: Juris Doctorate Degree, the University of Akron of Akron School of Law, Master of Public Administration, the University of Akron, Bachelor of Science in Political Science/Criminal Justice, The University of Akron, Associate of Applied Science Criminal Justice Technology, The University of Akron.

Training & Experience: Three Terms as Township Trustee, including several as Chairman of the Board.

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?

A: The most important issue with Rootstown Township is maintaining the historical characteristics of our town while at the same time balancing the commercial growth that is needed for a healthy revenue base. We have a Comprehensive Use Plan that can be found on the Rootstown Township website that takes into consideration this natural growth. The commercial development has been going as planned down Lynn Road east of State Route 44. It is understood that not everyone likes change, which includes new commercial buildings and that is understandable. It is important to both listen to people concerns and be compassionate. The Comprehensive Use Plans has been in place for decades and is designed to increase revenue that is needed for our employees' salaries and equipment.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: The State Route 44 Project will bring changes to State Route 44 in Rootstown Township. The most important consideration is making sure that the consultants and state officials working on this project have the skill set to consider all the variables that are needed to plan for this change. I am confident that the right people are working on this project. Communication is important to make sure the residents have the ability to provide input and receive up to date information on the why, what and when things are happening

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: The best approach to manage potential budget cuts is to sharpen your pencil and rein in expenses. We have done this successfully in the past. As a township we balance our budget and have a good understanding of future needs. It is necessary to have an understanding of all of the budget items and lines, which includes how they relate to each other. In addition, it is important to focus on preventative maintenance and staggering the financing of equipment.

### **Rootstown Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two



**David McIntyre**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 3307141334

Campaign Email: mcintyre79@aol.com

Volunteer & Community Service: Fairhaven Church of Rootstown, Rootstown Sports Boosters, Rootstown Youth Baseball & Softball

Education: Bachelor Degree from Kansas State University

Training & Experience: 12 Years as Rootstown Township Trustee

Q: 1. What do you see as the most important issue facing your Township and how do you propose addressing it?



A: Township Funding- We have taken several steps over the past several years to address the problems such as negotiating a JEDD contract where 90% of the funds stay in Rootstown Township. We are already seeing positive results from that.

Q: 2. What are the major challenges facing your community and how do you propose addressing them?

A: We have St Rt 44 from Tallmadge Rd to Ravenna that is primarily taken up with non-profits in which the Township, Schools get no property tax from placing a significant burden on the local tax payers. We are addressing the issue with the JEDD and doing a land survey project through OHM to better identify how land uses can much better serve our residents.

Q: 3. What is your approach to manage potential budget cuts for your Township?

A: Rootstown is one of only two townships in Portage County that does not have a levy for it's Roads or the General fund. I am proud of that fact, hopefully over the next several years you will see the direct benefits from the JEDD and how it is helping the township residents.

**Shalersville Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Ronald Kotkowski**  
**Frank R. Ruehr, Jr.**

**Suffield Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Thomas E. Calcei**  
**Jared A. Phillip**

**Windham Township Trustee**

Vote for no more than two

**Daniel Burns**  
**Richard J. Gano, Jr.**

**Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio**

**Previously known as Mahoning County Educational Service Center**

Vote for no more than three

**Suzanne Barbati**

Occupation: Retired, OH WOW! The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology

Education: Bachelor's degree in Conflict Studies Education, YSU

Q: 1. What are your top two priorities for this office?

A: As an elected board member of the ESCEO, the top two responsibilities for this office, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, are 1) serving as the governance team for the district with other elected board members, being a positive and responsible liaison between the school district and community; and 2) employing the superintendent and treasurer and working closely with them to establish and set policy, vision and long-range goals and be accountable for the fiscal health and opportunities provided to the district's students and families.

Q: 2. If elected, how will you address these priorities?

A: If elected, I will address these responsibilities as I have during decades of experience working with a variety of educational institutions throughout the state of Ohio: honestly and in person.

**Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio**  
**Previously known as Mahoning County Educational Service Center**  
Vote for no more than three

**Richard Ferenchak**

Occupation: pharmacist

Education: BS pharmacy University of Toledo College of Pharmacy 1991

Q: 1. What are your top two priorities for this office?

A: To lower the cost of services provided to the districts served by the Educational Service Center

To explore the ability of the Educational Service Center to administer the college credit plus program on behalf of the districts it serves

Q: 2. If elected, how will you address these priorities?

A: looking at the 5 year forecasts of districts served by the Educational Service Center it is alarming the rate of increases in the spending category of "purchased services". Most of these services are provided to the member districts by the educational service center. After examining employee contracts at the center I have concluded there seems to be little effort by the current governing board to control this expense. Current salaries and benefits, especially when it comes to administrative positions such as the superintendent, are in my opinion excessive. As a retail pharmacist I know that the biggest expense for virtually any organization is payroll. I would advocate vigorously for the governing board to take a much more aggressive stance when negotiating contracts and benefits.

I have 3 children all of whom in the last 6 years graduated college with stem degrees. All of them had between 45 and 60 hours of college credit earned while in high school. This saved all of them thousands of dollars in tuition and prepared them well to succeed while pursuing challenging majors. In my opinion most area school districts do a lackluster job at identifying and encouraging families whose students posses college ready abilities and aptitude to investigate the opportunities and advantages participating in the college credit plus affords them. I would like to see the educational service center develop a program that makes these families and their students aware of the programs merits

**Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio**  
**Previously known as Mahoning County Educational Service Center**  
Vote for no more than three

**Jeff Good**

Occupation: Retired Educator

Education: BA - Youngstown State. MaED - University of Phoenix

Q: 1. What are your top two priorities for this office?

A: The ESC of Eastern Ohio (formerly the Mahoning County Educational Service Center) cost-effectively provides high quality, state mandated services to area school districts. My hope is that the ESC will continue to provide and expand these necessary services that continue to meet the needs of our districts. The ESC of Eastern Ohio has been a "transparent" provider of these services to our member districts with costs clearly outlined and explained to districts each year. My hope is to continue that transparency as the ESC expands and improves these services annually.

Q: 2. If elected, how will you address these priorities?

If re-elected as a governing board member of the ESC of Eastern Ohio (formerly the Mahoning County Educational Service Center) I will continue, along with my fellow board members, to

manage the mission and vision of the ESC. Providing high quality services to our districts while providing those services in a cost effective and transparent manner is part of the mission and vision of the ESC of Eastern Ohio.

**Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio**  
**Previously known as Mahoning County Educational Service Center**

Vote for no more than three

**Richard Scarsella**

Occupation: Mahoning County Recorder

Education: B.A. Boston College, Sec. Ed./Histor M.S. YSU, Education Administration M.S. YSU, Special Education Endorsement KSU, TTW

Q: 1. What are your top two priorities for this office?

A: 1) Low cost service to member school districts for contracted services, such as teaching/learning, special education, related services and assessment/

2) User friendly services to member school districts.

Q: 2. If elected, how will you address these priorities?

A: I will continue to advocate for low cost services and user friendly services for member services, as I have done for the last twenty years. Expanding our services to other counties will lower contracted services' costs for member school districts, by spreading out costs to a larger service area. I will encourage the educational service center administrative team to identify potential new member school districts, in an effort to maximize our resources and support more students, teachers, related staff and administrators.

**Stark County Educational Service Center**

Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Jim Holmes**

**Fran Miller**

**Daniel Wales**

**Stark County Educational Service Center for unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Teresa J. Purses**

**Summit County Educational Service Center**

Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Clarissa M. Allega**

**Michael Chadsey**

**Claire Jimerson**

**Summit County Educational Service Center for unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Edward Sturkey**

**Aurora City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three



**Kate Fuller**

**Biographical Info:**

Campaign Email: k.milligan333@gmail.com

Volunteer & Community Service: The Aurora Schools Foundation Board - 8 years, Parish and Family Life Committee -4 years, Parish Counsel - 2 years,

Campaign Phone Number: 6143300129

Education: Ohio University -Bachelor of Specialized Studies - Marketing, Retail Merchandising, Human resource management, American International University

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: Aurora City Schools are outstanding, with top educators and a highly rated education. The most pressing challenges I hear from the community are infrastructure-related. We face overcrowding at Miller and Leighton, crumbling roads and parking lots, a failing Craddock, and safety concerns at Harmon. Solving these complex problems will require creativity and partnership, not just higher taxes. If elected, I'll push for a 10-year plan and closer collaboration with the city to create win-win solutions. For example, instead of paying a \$1M private bid for paving, partnering with the city could keep that money local and benefit citizens twice. Short term, we need a new K–3 school to replace aging facilities. Building it on the Craddock property, where the outdated bus garage stands, would address overcrowding and infrastructure needs at once. At Harmon, the open-concept design with glass and removable walls simply isn't safe, the practical fix is permanent walls.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: To serve effectively on this board, members need three key traits: the time and energy to commit, the ability to work with all people to represent our families, and the creativity to solve challenges responsibly. I'm at a stage in life where I can dedicate the time this role demands. While I run a small business, I don't work full-time, which allows me to research board issues and stay engaged with the community. I have a strong record of service—8 years on the Aurora Schools Foundation board, active volunteer work in my neighborhood, church, and schools. I am also the mother of 3 children in the district, aiding my understanding of what is happening inside our schools from the student's perspective. As Aurora grows, my ability to build relationships and foster collaboration will be a real benefit to our district. I'm excited for the opportunity to improve the experiences of our students and staff, and to ensure every Aurora resident feels the pride of being a Greenmen!

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: I believe addressing an emerging controversy successfully as a member of the board involves 3 steps, acting quickly, transparently, and empathetically. My role in acting quickly may mean pushing the board for an emergency meeting. Working transparently might involve measures to make sure the public is aware of the situation at hand, when the public may be able attend a meeting, and how they can access board minutes. Communication is key to transparency and needs to be readily available to the public online. Lastly, my job as a board

member would be to hear the thoughts and concerns of citizens empathetically and make sure the administration takes those concerns into consideration.

I believe a school board member's responsibility is to listen carefully, act responsibly, and always put students first. My commitment is to ensure every decision reflects both the needs of our families and the long-term success of Aurora Schools.

**Aurora City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Jennifer Klich**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: [jklich@aurora-schools.org](mailto:jklich@aurora-schools.org)

Volunteer & Community Service: Aurora Elementary PTO, Harmon High PTO, Hawthorn Hurricanes Swim Team

Education: University of Akron, Bachelors of Science in Nursing

Training & Experience: Current board member (2 years of service); Co-Chair BOE Communications Committee; Policy Committee member; 2024-2025 OSBA Legislative Liaison; 2024-2025 OSBA Student Achievement Liaison; 2025 OSBA Aptitude Award Recipient; Registered Nurse licensure since 2010

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/KlichForAuroraSchools](https://www.facebook.com/KlichForAuroraSchools)

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: One of the main challenges for Aurora City Schools is balancing aging facilities with a growing student population. As enrollment increases, space has become a significant concern, especially in elementary schools already operating beyond capacity. At the same time, years of declining state funding have placed a greater burden on local taxpayers to maintain the high quality of our schools.

To address these issues, we need a proactive and strategic plan. This includes assessing the condition and capacity of our facilities to ensure they remain safe, efficient, and capable of supporting student learning. Working closely with the administrative team, we can develop a long-term facilities master plan that sets priorities and outlines a realistic, phased timeline for improvements.

On the funding side, I will continue advocating for fairer support from the state by maintaining open dialogue with legislators. Locally, I'm committed to ensuring every taxpayer dollar is used responsibly.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: For me, leading starts with listening and learning. I prioritize being present in our district and community. When I'm not cheering for my kids on the sidelines, I'm often found at school or community events. Taking time to listen helps me serve more effectively.

Learning is just as important. I've completed nearly 60 hours of professional development through the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and local ESCs. This training provides a strong foundation for understanding the role of a board member and helps me stay informed on best practices to support Aurora City Schools.

During my two-year term, I've seized every opportunity to lead, serving as OSBA Legislative Liaison, OSBA Student Achievement Liaison, a member of the Policy Committee, and Co-Chair of the Communications Committee. Through these roles, I've continued to advocate for what's

best for our district. Given the opportunity to continue, I will build on this momentum and keep advocating for our schools and community.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: Public education is a non-partisan issue. We all have a stake in ensuring our youth are prepared to be active citizens and productive members of our communities. School boards should aim to serve the needs of all students and families, and as school board members, it is our duty to establish a clear vision for the district and oversee student outcomes.

Many potential emerging controversies can be managed by listening, understanding multiple perspectives, and ensuring all decisions are made in the best interest of students with respect to our community's aspirations for our youth. Ultimately, it's up to board members to avoid fueling controversy and instead guide the district through tough times with transparency and clear communication. This way, trust is preserved, and our schools remain a place where students can thrive.

### **Aurora City School Board**

Vote for no more than three

#### **Pamela Mehallis**

Biographical Info:

Education: Graduate of Aurora High School and Miami University

Training & Experience: 24 years experience on Aurora School Board

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: The greatest challenges currently facing the Aurora School District are aging infrastructure and capacity issues. Craddock Elementary School is over 100 years old and with that there are many concerns including outdated mechanical systems and limitations with building design. There are trailers at Miller and Leighton Elementary Schools to help with over-crowding. We plan to address these issues along with a list of high-priority renovation and maintenance needs throughout the district by asking the community to support what we are calling the "Essential Plan." There will be more information forthcoming regarding the cost and timing of this plan. Tied with the challenges of critical infrastructure is the problem of how public education is funded in Ohio. Aurora receives about 19% of its total funding from the state and the remainder falls to the taxpayers. Dealing with unfair school funding is difficult because it reflects larger systemic issues involving the state legislature.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I will continue to be an effective board member by prioritizing what is best for our students. Putting aside political and personal agendas is extremely important in this regard. Studying all that is presented to us by our superintendent and treasurer as they seek approval in matters of policy, staffing, curriculum, etc. is critical. Overseeing while not micromanaging is the role of an effective board member. Keeping in contact with the community at large, with parents, students, and staff is essential in order to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. As a board member, I will continue to make sure that I stay visible and approachable within the schools and our community. Aurora values its traditions and so I will work to preserve those traditions while welcoming innovation and progress. Finally, it is important to collaborate with fellow board members and to speak with one voice when decisions are made.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: The responsibility of a school board member in addressing emerging controversies is to continue to prioritize students, ensuring that the law and district policy are taken into account. Seek accurate information from the superintendent, legal platforms, etc. that can be used to make the best decision. Secure legal counsel when necessary. Always be transparent with the community. Remember that board members are elected to represent the community. It is important that a small group of loud voices does not sway decision making. A special effort must be made to reach the entire community for input on matters of controversy. Make sure that everyone understands what the board can and cannot do and proceed with consistency and stability. Respect the final decision of the board on any controversial matter and support it publicly.

**Aurora City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Stephen Sabulsky**

**Biographical Info:**

Education: MBA University of Notre Dame, MS University of Cincinnati, BA Kent State University

Training & Experience: Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Retired Law Enforcement

**Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?**

A: Our district faces three major challenges. First is funding. Ohio's system still relies heavily on local property taxes, forcing us to return to our community with levies. While Aurora families have always supported our schools, this cycle is not sustainable. We must continue to advocate for equitable state funding while remaining transparent, so taxpayers see exactly how their dollars benefit students. Second is facilities. Craddock is aging, and repairs are becoming too costly. We need to determine, with community input, whether to renovate or replace. Third is organizational consistency. Practices differ from building to building, including whether the Pledge of Allegiance is recited each day. This highlights the need for a clearer district-wide strategy, so students experience unity and continuity across all schools. With thoughtful planning, open communication, and strong community involvement, we can overcome these challenges and strengthen Aurora Schools for the future.

**Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?**

A: Effectiveness as a board member requires balancing listening, leadership, and accountability. Aurora is fortunate to have strong community support, and my role is to honor that trust through action. On funding, I will advocate both locally and in Columbus for equitable state funding, while ensuring residents see exactly how levy dollars are used to benefit students. On facilities, Craddock and other aging buildings need proactive planning. I support expert assessments, community input, and fiscally responsible choices that give students safe, modern schools. On organizational strategy, we must unify practices across building such as daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and align curriculum and expectations so every child experiences continuity. I will listen to parents, staff, and students, collaborate with colleagues, and make transparent decisions that always put students first.

**Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?**

A: As a board member, my duty during controversies is to stay focused on good governance and the success of our students. The board provides policy and direction, while the superintendent and administrators handle daily management. When challenges arise, I will

listen to parents, staff, and residents, gather facts from reliable sources, and ensure issues are handled through established board processes rather than quick or personal reactions. I also believe in leading with transparency and respect. Aurora's strong tradition of community support is built on trust, and maintaining that trust requires clear communication, fairness, and calm leadership. By working together as a board, and by following both state law and local policies, we can resolve even difficult matters in ways that strengthen our schools. My goal is to keep the focus on safe, effective classrooms, consistent practices across buildings, and providing the excellent educational opportunities Aurora families expect.

**Crestwood Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Kristen Cavanaugh**  
**Monica Stouffer**

**Field Local School Board**

Vote for no more than three

**Steven J. Calcei**  
**William G. Evans**  
**Randy M. Porter**

**Field Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one

**Matthew Slaven**

**James A. Garfield Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Patricia A. Brett**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: Twenty-eight years James A Garfield Board of Education

Q: What is the role of the School Board Member in the operations of your School District?

A: My role as James A Garfield Board of Education Member is to continue to advocate for what is best for students and represent the collective voice of the community. Additionally it is to build and support district leadership while assisting in establishing our vision and goals. Specific duties include the hiring and evaluation of the superintendent and treasurer as well as setting and approving district policy. I am privileged to have served James A Garfield Schools for the past 28 years and Maplewood Career Center for the past 24 years. I am extremely proud of both districts and the culture and opportunity they provide for our students.

**James A. Garfield Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Guy V. Pietra**



**Kent City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three



**John Avouris**

**Biographical Info:**

Campaign Phone Number: (740)381-2619

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576689267174](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576689267174)

Campaign Website: [johnavouris.com](http://johnavouris.com)

Campaign Email: [john@johnavouris.com](mailto:john@johnavouris.com)

Education: M.S. Union Leadership & Administration, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; K-8 Teaching Certification, University of Washington-Tacoma; B.S. Forestry, Michigan Technological University

Volunteer & Community Service: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church (Akron)-Lead Chanter, Good Samaritans Volunteer, Greek Festival; TRHS Music Boosters & Soccer Concessions volunteer & band camp chaperone

Training & Experience: 5th & 6th grade public school teacher (6 years); Have represented teachers (not Kent) & school support staff for over 20 years in Ohio

**Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?**

A: Our schools face several challenges. One of the biggest is the failure of the state to fully fund public education in Ohio and now the efforts by the Legislature to hamper the ability to raise funds locally. To address this, I believe we need to do a better job of informing our community and engaging them in honest, proactive conversations about how we fund our schools and how they can help advocate. I also believe the Board should advocate with our legislators on behalf of our community and our schools.

Another challenge is keeping our kids engaged in a quality education that is honest and thorough in this age of AI, censorship, and ongoing pressure to “teach to the test.” Allowing our teachers the freedom to use their expertise and to collaborate with each other is key. I believe it is also important that Board members are aware of what is going on in our schools—talking with parents, teachers, students, and our community about ways we can foster real excitement and engagement.

**Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?**

A: Board members represent the community in overseeing the district. Doing this means striking a good balance between two extremes: trying to micromanage the administration & staff on the one hand and just rubber-stamping whatever the administration presents on the other. That balance represents the values of our community and allows the best schools for our kids. Asking questions & listening to the answers is critical, especially on big issues with differing stakeholder perspectives. Holding our administration & staff to a high standard is important to ensuring that the district follows the law, adheres to our contractual obligations, supports our students and staff, and values our community.

It is also imperative that board members collaborate. My career as a union rep has taught me how to balance the importance of sticking to principles & values and knowing when to

compromise for common goals. I will bring that experience and a high level of preparation to the Board here in Kent.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: I believe that every conflict or controversy is an opportunity to learn, grow, & do better. In individualized cases, trusting our staff & administration to handle things appropriately and with compassion is essential. But it is also important to follow up to make sure we have done the best job possible. In larger issues, one key responsibility is to listen and to do so with an open mind. Sometimes what seems to be the “controversy” actually stems from deeper concerns or fears, and the only way to address the real issues is to actively listen & value what you hear. Sometimes, though, there is a clearer path forward for the board and the district. In such cases, I would work to make sure that our students and district are protected, that we uphold due process for all, and that we follow the law and, where appropriate, any contracts we have negotiated. Doing this ensures that if a difficult decision needs to be made, we have done the right thing all without having to “fix” it later.

**Kent City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Colin P. Boyle**

Biographical Info:

Education: 2005 Roosevelt Graduate and a Bachelor’s Degree in Finance and Economics from Seton Hall University

Training & Experience: CFO and Banker for 20 years, as well as many community boards and committees.

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: There are many external challenges that are affecting the key goal, in my opinion, is to provide a great educational experience in a safe and encouraging environment. The few that come to mind are the consistent funding challenges that are being sent from Columbus. This is an ongoing item that will take time and much thought to address. Also, the ever changing political landscape, creates challenges on curriculum that as a state funded public school system we have to address and follow. We have done so and will continue to follow state guidelines while maintaining the identity that makes Kent Schools so great.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: An effective school board member is a good listener. As a representative of the district, it is important to be open and available for concerns and comments of our community. Furthermore, a board member needs to be a strong steward for the students and keep them in the forefront of our minds in all decisions that may arise at the board. Being able to foster a positive education for all students is very important.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: Again, I feel that a board member needs to be open to the thoughts and concerns of the greater community.

**Kent City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three



**P. J. Errera**

**Biographical Info:**

Campaign Phone Number: 330-931-0700

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PJForKent/](https://www.facebook.com/PJForKent/)

Campaign Website: [www.pjerrera.com](http://www.pjerrera.com)

Campaign Twitter Handle: PJForKent

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

Education: Kent State University & Kent Roosevelt High School

Volunteer & Community Service: I've served on boards like United Way and the YDA Rural Caucus, and belong to the Sons of the American Legion. As a Kent resident and an uncle of a Stanton Middle Schooler, I believe in strong schools

Training & Experience: Over a decade of youth engagement and issue advocacy experience, with a strong focus on rural education and resource accessibility. IT professional with experience in managing project deployment, tech transitions, and client support.

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: The greatest challenge we face is continual budget cuts to public education from politicians in Columbus. These short-sighted decisions shift the burden onto local taxpayers and starve our schools of the resources students and teachers need to succeed. I would advocate for transparent, long-term budgeting that prioritizes classroom needs and holds state leaders accountable. Beyond funding, we must expand access to mental health supports for students and staff and ensure our curriculum and technology keep pace with a changing world. By building partnerships and advocating relentlessly, I will work to give every student in Kent the resources they need to thrive.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I would be an effective school board member because I have spent my adult life serving on progressive advocacy boards that engage young people in politics. This includes six years with the Portage County Young Democrats, two years as national Chair of the Rural Caucus for the Young Democrats of America, service on the board of the United Way, and current membership in the Sons of the American Legion. Through this work, I have regularly communicated with policymakers across the country, gaining the experience needed to advocate for initiatives that strengthen access to resources in education. Kent deserves a strong voice at the table, and I would be proud to represent our community in Columbus while ensuring every decision I make on the board is transparent, collaborative, and focused on what is best for our students.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: A board member's job is to face controversies head on and be honest with people about what is happening. Trust breaks down when problems are hidden or decisions are made behind closed doors. That is why I believe in following the Ohio Sunshine Law and making sure our

community is kept informed every step of the way. I will listen to all perspectives, create space for respectful conversation, and keep students at the center of every decision. Controversies are not something to run from. They are a chance to show leadership, build trust, and make the district stronger. By being transparent, communicative, and collaborative, I will help turn tough situations into opportunities for our schools to grow.

**Kent City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three



**David Myers**

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: Changes to our funding model is resulting in a decrease in overall funds coming into the school district. The board and the district needs to be creative, strategic, and effective in addressing shortfalls while not letting it impact the quality of the student learning experience. This is done through relentless collaboration with administrators and teachers alike to identify opportunities for improvement.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I will continue to work closely with our central administrators to ensure our district is focused on excellent academic and personal growth of our students. This requires good and constant transparency and communication with the community which I will continue provide.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: The school board must work as a unit to keep our district on the proper path. Board members must be able to come together in a collaborative way, able to disagree, but still able to come to solutions that put our district and more importantly, the students in our district, in the best place to succeed.

**Lake Local School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**David Barrett**  
**Adam Doane**  
**Jeff Finefrock**  
**Niki Johnson**  
**Caitlin Spano**

### **Mogadore Local School Board**

Vote for no more than three

**Michael Licause**

**Triston Smead**

**Christopher G. Williams**

### **Ravenna City School Board**

Vote for no more than three

#### **Patricia A. Dennison**

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Children's Advocacy Center (Board Member); Raven Packs (Board Member); Ravenna Parks and Recreation (Board Member); Center of Hope (Volunteer); The Shepherd's House (Volunteer)

Campaign Phone Number: 3302979704

Training & Experience: Four years/4 months-Ravenna Board of Education; Five years-Pastor, Ravenna Avenue Church of God; Thirty years-Kent State University, majority of years in Division of Student Affairs. Three years-private industry; Nine years-Portage County Government

Campaign Email: patdennisonforrboe@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing; Associate of Arts – Kent State University / Licensed and Ordained Pastor, Leadership Focus Program, Church of God Ministries, Anderson, Indiana

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: Some of the current challenges facing my district include improving academic performance/progress and increasing attendance rates. Additionally, hiring and retaining qualified teachers and staff. As well as keeping our students and staff safe. A review of family/parent support programs to improve and keep our families engaged with the school district to ensure academic progress for all students. I would address these challenges by continuing to work with the other Board Members, Administration and the community on the strategic plan and the initiatives that are in place to improve in these areas. Communication and transparency on all levels will be essential to moving the district forward.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I would continue to be available to advocate for our students as well as be accountable to the community I represent. I believe in partnerships between the Board, school district and community and will invest the necessary time and effort to stay connected and prepared to serve in the position.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: A board member is responsible for staying abreast of and understanding the current issues facing public schools on the local, state and federal levels and how they impact our school districts. One must be knowledgeable and possess the ability and temperament to converse and interact with various groups regarding their concerns with education. A board member must be able to agree to disagree and continue to work for the improvement of an educational system that benefits all students. The public-school landscape is rapidly changing, and we must figure out a way to work together to provide knowledge, critical thinking skills and abilities to ensure that our students receive the best possible education to be self-sufficient and prepared to contribute to our future society.

**Ravenna City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Heather Rainone**

Write-in

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Main Street Ravenna Board, 8 years; Rotary Club of Ravenna, 3 years; Ravenna Boys Soccer Boosters, 3 years; United Way of Portage County Community Impact Committee, 8 years

Campaign Phone Number: 330-389-8131

Training & Experience: When I was a newspaper reporter, I covered numerous school boards, including Ravenna Board of Education, and understand how school boards operate and the responsibilities of a board member. I have also volunteered and served on numerous boards of directors for area groups.

Campaign Email: [hrrainone@gmail.com](mailto:hrrainone@gmail.com)

Education: Ravenna High School, Mount Union College

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: The Ravenna School District is working hard to overcome some big challenges financially, even with the recent levy approval. On top of this, we need to work on student achievement. While some grade levels are doing well, others are in need of additional support, especially in reading and math. Recently, the district implemented a new reading program, which has helped improve scores, and the district is getting ready to begin using a new math curriculum. I think this is a great step forward to address these challenges. Also, like many districts, we're struggling to keep and recruit great teachers, bus drivers, and specialists. It's important to understand why these challenges exist and how other districts might be successfully addressing this. Most importantly, we must keep students at the center of every decision by focusing resources on early literacy, math support, and strong teaching staff.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I have lived in Ravenna all of my life. I am a graduate of Ravenna Schools, have a current high school student, and have two children who have graduated from Ravenna. I understand the challenges facing the school district and the challenges of being a parent of a student in the district. My primary responsibility would be to serve as a trustee for the community, focusing on long-term student success as well as building relationships with the community and parents, teachers and staff, and the superintendent and administrators. I would work to stay informed about educational trends and policies, as well as school finance and educational initiatives.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: Before making a decision, it is important to understand all sides, follow the law and district policies, and, most importantly, focus on what's best for students. Board members must be transparent, fair and communicate openly while encouraging respectful dialogue. Ultimately, the goal should always be to make decisions that support students' learning, well-being, and success.

**Ravenna City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Wesley Ransom**

Write-in

Candidate has not responded.

**Ravenna City School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Joan Seman**

Write-in

Candidate has not responded.

**Rootstown Local School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Matt Collins**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: roverswin@aol.com

Training & Experience: Havre Chevrolet Oldsmobile 1984 - 2004 (Service & Parts Director)  
Rootstown Local Schools 2004 - 2024 (Director of Transportation, Buildings and Grounds)

Education: High School, Some College

Campaign Phone Number: 3306710160

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: I see facilities as a huge obstacle and would like to work to put our students and staff into a better learning environment. I also would like to make more electives available to help our students with more aspects of life that is ahead of them.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I have always worked well with others and listened to what people have to say. I feel listening to others and getting proper information helps make decisions easier. Having strong leadership with people you trust and can work with. We as board members are here to set policy that will help our students and staff today and into the future.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: To be honest and as transparent as the state allows. Address them in a timely manner but take the appropriate time to get all sides of what the issue or issues may be.

**Rootstown Local School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Lisa Kinter**

Candidate has not responded.

**Rootstown Local School Board**  
Vote for no more than three

**Donna Shipman**

Candidate has not responded.

**Rootstown Local School Board**

Vote for no more than three

**Tom Siciliano**

Biographical Info:

Volunteer & Community Service: Past volunteer football coach and officer with Rootstown Youth Football

Training & Experience: Current school board member

Education: Rootstown Local Schools

Campaign Phone Number: 3303252176

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: The biggest challenge is and has been funding, or lack of it from the state. The requirements are expanding and the funding does not keep up. We have just recently entered into an agreement with Waterloo to employ a treasurer that will serve both of our districts to try to control our increasing expenses.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: Taking the time to listen to the concerns of the community and still make decisions that will advance all of the students.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: As local school board members, we cannot get involved in the growing divide that is happening in our country now. As an elected official, we need to try to address the needs at our schools and stay out of the political views at the federal level.

**Rootstown Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one

**Douglas M. Saltsman**

**Southeast Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Shannon Kelly Hamilton**

Candidate has not responded.

**Southeast Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Kate Hartung**

Candidate has not responded.



## **Southeast Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

### **Frank R. Voss**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: rvchampion@yahoo.com

Volunteer & Community Service: S.P.A.C.E. (Southeast Pirate Community Endeavor) SE  
Athletic Boosters SE Music Boosters

Campaign Phone Number: 330-221-6230

Education: BA English and History with a Special Concentration in American Studies 1977

Training & Experience: 50 years of experience in management, supervising, training in  
construction and education

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: I am a proponent of finding a better way to finance school districts other than through property tax. While on the board, we decided not to pursue the extension of a levy that was set to expire in 2024. I know of no other district that had the foresight to do this especially with the impending property tax increases that were scheduled in the county. Also, I have been directly involved in helping to secure signatures for the Ohio Constitutional Amendment to eliminate property tax as way of funding schools. Hopefully, this will be placed on the ballot sometime in 2026. Additionally, since being elected to the board in 2021, I have been a proponent of aggressively seeking grants. In the last four years the district has received over one million dollars in grant money through various agencies. I believe that by hiring a professional grant writer, this number could be significantly higher.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I am running for re-election. I believe that I have already proven that I can be an effective school board member. I have done this by questioning everything and anything that appears to be suspect when operating a school district. I have also spent time with various groups around the district listening to what their needs and concerns are for the district. I have and will continue to work with these groups in supporting what their visions are for the future of our students. I have spent time listening to the students of the district: to their concerns and observations. I will continue to work with other school board members to find solutions to problems that have and will face the district. I believe that it is important to be able to agree to disagree and then move forward. Open and honest communication is the key.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: AI technology is going to be the most important and controversial issue in the next two to five years. We are currently dealing with AI. In the very near future; maybe less than a year, we will be dealing with AGI (Artificial General Intelligence). It will be our responsibility to prepare our students to not only live with this new technology but to excel in its use. Furthermore, I believe that once we cross the threshold from AI to AGI, we will be just around the corner to ASI (Artificial Super Intelligence). Once we take that leap, everything in education is going to change. I would suggest a change immediately that could produce significant results as these things develop. In order to help students analyze the right and wrong ways to interpret the new technology, a mandatory course in critical thinking, at the high school level, should be implemented.

## **Southeast Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

### **Nicholas Zaczek**

Candidate has not responded.

## **Southeast Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one



### **Logan Harrah**

Write-in

Biographical Info:

Education: Graduate from Southeast High School, Bachelors from Ohio Northern University, Masters from University of Akron

Campaign Phone Number: 3303971073

Campaign Email: lgharrah@gmail.com

Campaign Facebook: facebook.com/logan.harrah.for.school.board

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: Southeast has recently begun its three year strategic plan to improve the school's facilities, curriculum, and general services. A plan like this is much needed, but implementing it will require continued buy-in from the community as well as consistent funding. As a member of the board, I would make myself available to the community to hear any concerns they have, but I would particularly seek feedback from Southeast's teachers who have been neglected by the board in the past. We need buy-in from teachers for the plan to work, and my own experience as a teacher would help me as an advocate for their success.

As for funding the plan, the school should definitely have the money it needs, but I have some concern for the other school programs that might be neglected while the plan is being worked on. In the past Southeast has used grants or community fundraisers to help fund projects outside of the budget, and my experience in non-profit organizing could help us to think outside the box.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I would be an effective school board member by bringing a different perspective to the table. I'm younger than other candidates for the board and can better relate to the challenges current Southeast students face in school, from safety concerns, to the effective use of new technologies. I also have a background in Southeast's non-sports extracurriculars, like band or drama club, that other board members might not have. I would use this experience to be a representative for those school activities and help the rest of the board and administration see their value.

As much as I think my perspective will be helpful to the school board, I also think that I will be effective as someone who can bring other people's perspectives forward. As a board member I

intend to actively engage with teachers, parents, students and any other interested community members to see how they think Southeast is doing and what they think is well or poorly in the district.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: School Board members are supposed to be the link between the community outside of the school and the faculty and staff within it. Because of this it is very important that we don't hide from controversy or try to ignore it, but we should also be responsible about how we deal with it. School boards primarily act on schools through the superintendent and other administrators that they hire, which means that we should be working with those people to resolve any controversy or consider removing them if they themselves are the problem. We also can't be too quick to resolve a controversy if it is dividing our community or else we are only going to make things worse. It is not our job to stoke the fires or pick sides, it is our job to make sure Southeast Students are getting the best education possible. This is why engaging with the community is so important, it can give us the full picture of where the controversy came from and helps us to find the solution that best serves our students.

**Southeast Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one

**Kevin Werschey**

Biographical Info:

Education: Southeast High School

Volunteer & Community Service: HVAC Advisory Board at Maplewood JVS, Southeast Athletic Boosters, Southeast S.P.A.C.E.

Campaign Email: [kevin.werschey@refrigerationsales.net](mailto:kevin.werschey@refrigerationsales.net)

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: Our district faces challenges in preparing students for both college and trades while ensuring facilities are safe and efficient. Too many students are disengaged in traditional classrooms, and we need to expand hands-on opportunities like maker spaces, carpentry, and manufacturing programs that build real-world skills and lead to high-paying careers without debt. With decades of trade experience and service on the HVAC advisory board, I know how to stretch resources, avoid waste, and improve facilities without overburdening taxpayers, as shown through projects like the track and concession stand funded by donations. I will hold administration accountable, advocate for stronger career pathways, and continue engaging the community to move our schools forward.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I would be an effective school board member by building on my past service and continuing to push our district forward. During my previous term, I worked with the school administration to explore new ideas like maker spaces and career-focused classes that keep students engaged and help them learn real-world skills. I bring 30 years of trade experience, giving me insight into practical maintenance decisions that save money and keep schools safe. I stay visible and approachable, actively involved in boosters, advisory boards, and community projects. My ability to connect students with job opportunities and to rally community support—like securing major donations for school facilities—shows I can get things done. I will continue to hold administration accountable while advocating for strong academic and career pathways for all students.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: The responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies is to listen to all voices—teachers, staff, students, administration, and community members—before making decisions. A strong board member gathers perspectives, asks questions, and ensures concerns are heard and respected. By focusing on transparency, accountability, and open dialogue, the board can build trust and work toward solutions that reflect the best interests of students and the community. My goal is to bring people together, not divide them, and to keep the focus on what matters most—providing a safe, supportive, and forward-moving education for every child.

### **Springfield Local School Board**

Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Amy Campbell**  
**Cynthia Frola**  
**Donnie Furlong**  
**Chad Lance**  
**Kelly Warner**

### **Stow-Munroe Falls City School Board**

Vote for no more than two

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Kathrine Dannemiller**  
**John Moyer**  
**Jason Whitacre**  
**Pamela Wind**

### **Stow-Munroe Falls City School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Joanne Loparo**  
**Tina Merlitti**

### **Streetsboro City School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Kristina Mattmuller**

### **Streetsboro City School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Sara Scott**

Biographical Info:

Education: BSN

Volunteer & Community Service: Professional oncology nurse local chapter board, band booster events

Training & Experience: Oncology nurse, past experience on professional board & Streetsboro School Board

### **Q: What is the role of the School Board Member in the operations of your School District?**

A: School board members have a crucial role in engaging with school administration to ensure progress in education & supporting all Streetsboro children. The school board trusts the administration team with daily operations within goals & expectations set forth by the board. An individual member of the school board is not involved in day to day operations but is welcome to

share concerns & provide insight with the knowledge that any practice or policy change requires board approval. Each individual member brings a unique perspective to working through issues or concerns which serves the community as a whole. The board works together cohesively to ensure the school district is showing progress & is adequately supporting all district children.

### **Tallmadge City School Board**

Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](https://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Michael Donnell**

**Todd Loughry**

**David S. Parry**

**Kimberly Polatas**

**Jennifer Ross**

### **Waterloo Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

#### **Lizette Royer Barton**

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone Number: 3308022943

Training & Experience: I have worked in higher education for my entire career as a reference archivist and lecturer at The University of Akron. I have attended school board meetings regularly since 2019 when my oldest child started school.

Education: Graduate of Waterloo Local Schools, BA University of Akron, MLIS Kent State University

Volunteer & Community Service: I served 11 years as President of the Board for the Kent Haymaker Farmers Market. I currently serve as Secretary of the Waterloo Vikings Parent Teacher Organization.

Campaign Email: [lizetteroyerbarton@gmail.com](mailto:lizetteroyerbarton@gmail.com)

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: Lack of transparent communication has affected morale in our district - the morale of our teachers and staff and our parents and community members. 2024-2025 was a tough year with a difficult superintendent who has since left and now we have an opportunity to build back trusting relationships and increase honest communication at all levels. Parents want to be more engaged and informed, but are often unsure of how to get involved. As a community member, I held a public action meeting and our community room was full of people and we had an engaging conversation about our school. This shows that communicating openly and honestly is the best way to address challenges.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I have two children in the district, I am an officer in our PTO, and I have spent my career working in higher education. I have attended board meetings regularly since my oldest child started school in 2019. I am not afraid to ask questions and hold people accountable. I am engaged and care deeply about our school and its future. I want to communicate with people. I am ready to listen and represent my community and use my vote as a school board member to always put our students first

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: The board is fiscally responsible for the school while also working to create the best environment for student and staff success. It's important the board work as a team, with shared

principles and goals. If we do that, and focus on honest, transparent communication, we can more easily navigate controversy together.

**Waterloo Local School Board**

Vote for no more than two

**Tim Moon**

Candidate has not responded.

**Waterloo Local School Board**

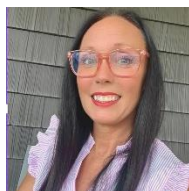
Vote for no more than two

**Joy M. Mori**

Candidate has not responded.

**Waterloo Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than two



**Angela D. Bennett**

Biographical Info:

Training & Experience: I bring 20+ years in marketing and communications, including 8 in higher education focused on communication, engagement, and crisis response. I'm a Leadership Portage County graduate, led the 2017 Waterloo Levy Committee (where "We Are Waterloo" was created), and served as president of the Public Relations Society of America, Akron Chapter. These experiences give me the skills to strengthen communication, build trust, and bring people together.

Campaign Email: [bennett4waterloo@gmail.com](mailto:bennett4waterloo@gmail.com)

Campaign Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bennett4waterloo](https://www.facebook.com/bennett4waterloo)

Volunteer & Community Service: My service to the Waterloo Levy Committee and four years on the Public Relations Society of America, Akron Area Chapter board were both volunteer work, and in which I enjoyed serving my community.

Education: Master of Science, User Experience Design; Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing

Campaign Phone Number: 3307308988

Q: 1. What are the current challenges facing your school district and how would you address them?

A: Our district is facing challenges like mistrust between the community and the Board, leadership turnover, declining enrollment, low school spirit, and financial strains despite rising property taxes. If elected, I will work to rebuild trust through transparency and stronger communication — clearly explaining decisions and moving beyond just monthly meetings to create additional ways for the community to engage. I will actively involve parents, students, staff, and community members, serving as a bridge between the district and the public. My priorities are to put students first, foster school pride, improve educational opportunities, and balance the needs of the community while managing finances responsibly. With 20+ years in marketing, communications, and leadership, I have the experience to strengthen dialogue, build

trust, and bring people together so our schools can provide the best education for our children — our future leaders.

Q: 2. How would you be an effective school board member?

A: I would be an effective school board member because of the professional experience and leadership skills I bring to the table. I understand the importance of timely, clear, and honest communication, as well as active listening and two-way dialogue. Not everyone can attend board meetings, and many may not fully understand the Board's role, school funding, or how state-level decisions impact our schools. I want to ensure these conversations are happening openly and that information is shared clearly with the community.

I also recognize that our primary responsibility is to our students. Students with higher school spirit tend to be more engaged, participate in extracurricular and community activities, and demonstrate greater confidence, happiness, and academic achievement. I want to make sure every decision supports their success while keeping the community informed and involved.

Q: 3. What is the responsibility of a board member in addressing emerging controversies?

A: As a school board member, my responsibility in addressing emerging controversies is to listen carefully, gather accurate information, and act thoughtfully. It's important to remain objective and focused on what's best for students, rather than personal opinions or politics. I must communicate clearly and transparently with the community, provide a platform for dialogue, and work collaboratively with other board members and administrators to find solutions that uphold district policies and serve the needs of all students and stakeholders.

In short, a board member should respond responsibly, ensure decisions are fair and informed, and maintain trust between the Board, the district, and the community.

**Waterloo Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than two

**Ty Henry**

Candidate has not responded.

**Waterloo Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than two

**Joseph Hickin**

Candidate has not responded.

**Waterloo Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than two

**Dane Wise**

Candidate has not responded.

**West Branch Local School Board**

Vote for no more than three

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Tony A. Dean**

**Penny Lynn DeShields**

**Angela Howell**

**Samuel Jennings**

**Peggy Shaver**

**West Branch Local School Board unexpired term ending 12/31/27**

Vote for no more than one

Responses not available for publication. Go to [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) for more information.

**Deborah J. Helm**

**Svetlana Herron**

**Windham Exempted Village School Board**

Vote for no more than three

**Elaine L. Grant**

**Melissa Knight**

**Mandy L. Minnick**



## **Issues**

### **Issue #1 Kent City: Renewal Tax Levy - Fire Protection**

Description: Renewal of City's existing 0.73-mill tax levy \$14 per \$100,000 appraised value Will raise \$267,928 annually For maintaining and operating fire station west of the Erie Railroad 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

### **Issue #2 Kent City: Amendment of the Charter Preamble**

Description: Shall the "PREAMBLE" of the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio be amended by the removal of the phrase "to almighty God" to reflect the separation of church and state and to avoid possible offense to residents.

### **Issue #3 Kent City Charter Amendment: Effect of changing ward lines on council terms**

Description: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article V, Section 5.01 titled "Council & Mayor" be amended by allowing a ward councilperson to serve their entire term if ward boundaries are redrawn in such a way that the councilperson no longer resides in the ward in which they were elected.

### **Issue #4 Kent City Charter Amendment: Removal of phrase "involving moral turpitude"**

Description: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article V, Section 5.03 titled "Removal" be amended by identifying the Ohio Revised Code definition for "crimes of moral turpitude."

### **Issue #5 Kent City Charter Amendment: Add a provision that persons removed from office cannot be appointed for one year after the removal.**

Description: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article V, Section 5.15 titled "Recall Petition and Election" be amended by adding a time frame to ineligibility for office after removal, and expanding that ineligibility to any city appointment or office for one year.

### **Issue #6 Kent City Charter Amendment: Remove word "disability"**

Description: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article VI, Section 6.03 titled "City Manager" be amended by deleting the word "disability" to reflect modern awareness.

### **Issue #7 Kent City Charter Amendment. Changes to Charter Review Committee process**

Description: Shall the Charter of the City of Kent, Ohio Article VIII, Section 8.07 titled "Charter Review" be amended by detailing the process for meetings of the Commission, as well as lowering the number of members from 15 to nine, and amending the review process to occur every five years instead of ten.

**Issue #8 Streetsboro City 1C: Local Liquor Option - Sunday Sales - Don Patron Streetsboro L.L.C.**

Description: Local Liquor Option Sunday Sales Beer, wine, mixed beverages spirituous liquor Don Patron Streetsboro LLC

**Issue #9 Mantua Village: Local Liquor Option - Sunday Sales – Mantua Quick Mart**

Description: Local Liquor Option Sunday Sales Wine & Mixed Beverages Viha, Inc., dba Mantua Quick Mart

**Issue #10 Atwater Township. Renewal Tax Levy - Roads and Bridges**

Description: Renewal Tax Levy 1.5 mills; \$17/\$100,000 of appraised value Will raise \$51,552 annually For Roads & Bridges 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #11 Charlestown Township: Renewal Tax levy - Fire and Emergency Medical Service**

Description: Renewal Tax Levy 2.5 mills; \$37/\$100,000 appraised value Will raise \$45,877 annually Fire and Emergency Medical Services 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #12 Deerfield Township. Replacement Tax Levy - Fire and Emergency Medical Service**

Description: Replacement Tax Levy 2.5 mills; \$88 per \$100,000 appraised value Will raise \$280,343 annually For Fire and Emergency Medical Services 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #13: Edinburg Township Renewal Tax Levy - Current Expenses**

Description: Edinburg Township Renewal Tax Levy 1.3 mills; \$14 per \$100,000 appraised value Will raise \$48,619 annually For current expenses 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #14 Edinburg Township: Renewal Tax Levy - Fire and Emergency Medical Service**

Description: Edinburg Township Renewal Tax Levy 2.1 mills; \$42 per \$100,000 appraised value Will raise \$129,941 annually For Fire and Emergency Medical Services 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #15 Mantua Township Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Mantua Township Renewal tax levy for roads and bridges- 1.5 mills. Will raise \$193,437 annually. \$28 per \$100,000 of appraised value. 5 years commencing in 2026. For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #16 Nelson Township Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Nelson Township Renewal tax level for current expenses - 1 mill Will raise \$52,825 annually. \$17 per \$100,000 of appraised value. 5 years commencing in 2026. For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #17 Palmyra Township Renewal and Increase Tax Levy**

Description: Palmyra Township Renewal and increase tax levy for Fire & EMS - 3 mills. Expected to raise \$219,539 annually. \$71 per \$100,000 of appraised value. 5 years commencing in 2026. For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #18 Palmyra Township Renewal and Increase Tax Levy**

Description: Palmyra Township Renewal and increase tax levy for Fire & EMS - 3 mills Will raise \$220,585 annually \$74 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #19 Paris Township Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Paris Township Renewal tax levy for Fire & EMS - 2 mills Will raise \$70,305 annually \$40 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: <https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/portage/ballotlist.aspx>

**Issue #20 Randolph Township Replacement and Decrease Tax Levy**

Description: Randolph Township Replacement and decrease tax levy for roads and bridges - 1.75 mills Will raise \$355,670 annually \$61 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #21 Ravenna Township Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Ravenna Township Renewal tax levy for current expenses - 3.5 mills Will raise \$268,977 annually \$31 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #22 Rootstown Twp. Replacement Tax Levy Fire & EMS**

Description: Rootstown Township Replacement tax levy for Fire and EMS. 2.85 mills. Will raise \$976,572 annually. \$100 per \$100,000 appraised value. 5 years commencing in 2026. For a fuller description of this issue, check the Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage.

**Issue #23 Suffield Twp. Additional Tax Levy Fire & EMS**

Description: Suffield Township Additional tax levy for Fire and EMS - 3 mills. Will raise approximately \$752,646 annually. \$105 per \$100,000 of appraised value. Continuing levy commencing in 2025. For a fuller description of this issue, check the Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage.

**Issue #24 Streetsboro City Schools Additional Tax Levy**

Description: Streetsboro City School District Additional tax levy for current expenses - 5 mills. Will raise \$3,884,962 annually. \$175 per \$100,000 of appraised value. Continuing period, commencing in 2025. For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #25 Tallmadge City School District Additional Tax Levy**

Description: Tallmadge City School District Additional tax levy for current expenses – 5.7 mills. Will raise \$3,777,486 annually. \$200 per \$100,000 of appraised value. Continuing period, commencing in 2025. For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Board of Elections website: Ballot Display – Portage

**Issue #26 Tallmadge City School District Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Tallmadge City School District Renewal tax levy for current expenses – 7.5 mills. Will raise \$3,021,622 annually. \$133 per \$100,000 of appraised value. Continuing period, commencing in 2026. For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #27 Windham Exempted Village School District Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Windham Exempted Village School District Renewal Tax Levy for general permanent improvements - 1.5 mills Will raise \$76,969 annually \$33 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #28 Springfield Local School District Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Springfield Local School District Renewal Tax Levy for general permanent improvements – 1.8 mills Will raise \$302,430 annually \$12 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2026 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display – Portage

**Issue #29 Springfield Local School District Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Springfield Local School District Renewal Tax Levy for emergency requirements in the sum of \$1,500,000 – 2.57 mills 5 years commencing in 2026

For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display – Portage

**Issue #30 Community EMS Additional Tax Levy**

Description: Community EMS Additional Tax Levy for emergency medical services (EMS) - 2 mills Will raise \$552,734 annually \$70 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2025 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage

**Issue #31 WVFD Joint Fire District Renewal Tax Levy**

Description: Windham Village Fire Department Joint Fire District Renewal Tax Levy for Fire & EMS - 4 mills Will raise \$197,443 annually \$77 per \$100,000 of appraised value 5 years commencing in 2025 For a fuller description of this issue, please check the Portage County Board of Elections website: Ballot Display - Portage