

*LEAGUE of  
WOMEN  
VOTERS  
of the Tiffin Area*



[www/tiffinohio.com/lwv](http://www.tiffinohio.com/lwv)

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General Election-November 4, 2008

Polls Open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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## VOTERS' GUIDE

This publication is issued by the League of Women Voters, a national nonpartisan organization, to provide a forum to all political candidates within the jurisdiction of our organization that includes the City of Tiffin, Clinton, Eden and Hopewell Townships and Tiffin City, Hopewell-Loudon and Mohawk School Districts.

This Voter Guide was prepared for the 2008 General Election. All persons who filed with the Board of Elections are listed. All candidates, unless otherwise noted, were asked to provide demographic information and to answer a question.

This publication contains explanations and pro and con arguments prepared by the League of Women Voters of Ohio about five State Ballot Issues. It also lists all the issues that will appear on the ballot for Seneca County.

Information about candidates was assembled in the following manner: questions were selected by the League of Women Voters and addressed to the candidates. Candidates were given a word limit for their responses and were informed that they were solely responsible for the contents of their reply.  
**The League does not alter, edit or correct the candidates' responses.**

Freddie Larsen, Voter Guide Editor  
Mary Lewis, President

# PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

## PRESIDENT

**Term:** 4 years      **Number to be elected:** 1  
**Salary:** \$400,000  
**Responsibilities:** The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the United States and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

## VICE PRESIDENT

**Term:** 4 years      **Number to be elected:** 1  
**Salary:** \$208,000  
**Responsibilities:** The Vice President fills in for the President.

**CHUCK BALDWIN & DARRELL CASTLE**  
**BOB BARR & WAYNE ALLYN ROOT**  
**RICHARD DUNCAN & RICKY JOHNSON**  
**JOHN McCAIN & SARAH PALIN - REPUBLICAN**  
**CYNTHIA McKINNEY & ROSA A CLEMENTE**  
**BRIAN MOORE & STEWART ALEXANDER**  
**RALPH NADER & MATT GONZALEZ**  
**BARACK OBAMA & JOSEPH BIDEN - DEMOCRAT**

# REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS (5TH DISTRICT)

**Term:** 2 years      **Number to be elected:** 1  
**Salary:** \$169,300  
**Responsibilities:** To represent the people of Ohio, their district, and the United States in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare of the country should be a prime concern.  
**Questions for Candidates for Representative to Congress:** 1) What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage? 2) What steps do you propose to strengthen the U.S. economy? 3) How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?

**ROBERT E. LATTA** - Republican

**AGE:** 52

**ADDRESS:** 1528 Muirfield Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402

**OCCUPATION:** United States House of Representatives  
**EDUCATION:** University of Toledo College of Law, J.D., 1981; Bowling Green State University, B.A., 1978; Bowling Green High School, 1974.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:** United States House of Representatives 2007-present, State Representative 2001-2007, State Senator 1997-2000, Wood County Commissioner 1991-1996, Attorney at Law 1981-present.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION #1:** What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?

Consumers should have the following:

- (1) Ability to receive point-of-service health care in preventative, emergency, and rehabilitative settings;
- (2) Refundable tax credits for the purchase of health insurance by low income recipients, combined with laws that permit association and small business health plans;
- (3) Medical liability reform;
- (4) Safe and effective health service with measurable results through health information technology;
- (5) Building new incentives into health plans to encourage wellness and prevention and incentives for people to make smart choices involving their health, health care, and health insurance coverage; and
- (6) Giving consumers choice, portability, and HSAs.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION #2:** What steps do you propose to strengthen the U.S. economy?

We must have sufficient energy to power our factories, businesses, homes, and vehicles. We need an All of the Above strategy that includes nuclear, clean coal technology, oil and natural gas, hydroelectric, solar, wind, hydrogen, ethanol, and biofuels. We must have energy because energy equals manufacturing that in turn creates jobs. The Fifth District has one of the largest number of manufacturing jobs in Congress, and we rank number one in agriculture production. Without energy we will not compete. Congress must reduce business taxes, since the United States ranks second in the world in corporate tax rates.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION #3:** How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?

I firmly believe that no amnesty should be granted to anyone who has entered this country illegally. We have laws on the books that state how a person can legally enter to work and to apply for citizenship. Americans are already experiencing monetary difficulties in affordable healthcare, social services, primary and secondary education and higher education. If illegal immigrants take advantage of the above and are unable to pay, it is then up to those who have healthcare to pay more to make up the difference or hospitals to write off the unpaid expenses as a loss.

**GEORGE R. MAYS** - Democrat

**AGE:** 52

**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 54, Norwalk, Ohio 44857

**OCCUPATION:** small business owner

**EDUCATION:** B.S. Psy. Campbellsville College, M. Div. Ashland University

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:** education, common sense and a deep desire to serve people

**ANSWER TO QUESTION #1:** What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?

The continued escalation of health-care costs has impacted most of us. Many have lost their insurance just to keep their jobs. 47 million citizens are uninsured. I am committed to giving all Americans access to health-care. This includes regular check-ups and preventative measures. The simplest thing to do is push the limits of Medicaid up into the increasingly uninsured working classes. Coverage would be paid for on a sliding scale. Our country spends more on health-care than any other. The health of one citizen effects families and society. We can and must accomplish affordable health-care.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION #2:** What steps do you propose to strengthen the U.S. economy?

First, get oil under \$100 a barrel by releasing some U.S. oil reserves and stifling extreme speculation on the commodities market. We must once again become fiscally responsible and balance the Federal budget. \$11,000,000,000,000 in debt is unacceptable and threatens our future. A major restructuring of spending priorities must take place. More of our budget to infrastructure here (rather than overseas). Also, a nut and bolts plan should be developed and implemented that establishes renewable resource power plants across the electric grid. This will bring scientific research, technology and then a new unbridled industrial boom.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION #3:** How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?

No effort made to control illegal immigration will work without controlling America's borders. This should be a Homeland Security priority. Who is coming into our country? I suggest we seal the borders (electronically and otherwise), open more border crossings, create I.D.'s for undocumented entries and put all in a data base. Streamline the guest worker program and make it easy to obtain a green card. By doing these things we keep out more bad guys and bring illegal workers out of the underground economy. These are my two biggest concerns. Remember, only 3.9% of our district is Hispanic.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Term:** 2 years to complete 4 year term

**Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$105,202

**Responsibilities:** Represents the state in all legal cases in which the state is a party or has a significant interest.

**Questions for Candidates for Attorney General:** 1) What specific actions should the Attorney General take to protect consumers in Ohio? 2) What changes would you propose in the authority of the Attorney General?

**ROBERT OWENS** - Independent

**ADDRESS:** 46 N. Sandusky Street Suite 300 Delaware, OH 43015

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFO:**

<http://owens2008.com/home/about-robert/>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:**

"Protecting consumers starts by sacredly guarding their tax dollars, eliminating the "corruption tax," which by some accounts has been as much as \$2,000 per family. This means changing the system that awards no-bid contracts to large campaign contributors representing special interests. It also means eliminating the current "slush funds" that are created by monies collected by the attorney general's office through settlement and litigation. Those funds should be returned to the people's treasury.

As attorney general, I will work to reduce regulation on small business (often falsely marketed as "consumer protection"), while increasing focus on prosecuting fraudulent business practices.

Finally, consumer protection means fighting crime. I will work to expand capabilities for the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) forensic lab in order to better support law enforcement across Ohio. I will also work to expand education to communities and law enforcement regarding citizen rights to self defense."

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:** "The attorney general should not have the authority to unilaterally distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in no-bid contracts. I am the only candidate to propose, from the beginning of the race, that every contract be subject to a full, open competitive bid process.

All financial transactions of the attorney general's office should be readily available (i.e. online), open to public and media scrutiny. The only way to restore integrity to the office of attorney general is through independent oversight and full transparency. I am the only candidate to sign the Buckeye Institute's "Transparency in Government" pledge.

Let there be no more blind trust in politicians. The system itself must be changed. As an independent, I alone have the ability to make these changes without concern from party politics and big money special interest pressure."

**MIKE CRITES** - Republican

**ADDRESS:** 211 S. Fifth Street Columbus, OH 42315

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFO:**

<http://www.critesforohio.com/biography>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:** "As Attorney General I will make the protection of Ohio consumers one of my top priorities. I am a career prosecutor, not a career politician. I have 21 years of prosecutorial experience, more than the last seven Attorneys General combined. As United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio I prosecuted every type of criminal from members of the Mafia, to dangerous drug dealers to tax evaders. I pledge to use that experience to uphold the consumer laws of Ohio and to go after criminals, both individuals and businesses, who illegally prey on Ohioans."

# STATE SENATOR

(26TH DISTRICT)

**Term:** 4 years

**Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$60,584

**Responsibilities:** To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

**Questions for Candidates for State Senator:** 1) Why should the voters elect you? 2) Specifically, what plans do you have to increase efficiency and save taxpayers' dollars in your office?

**KAREN L. GILLMOR** - Republican

**ADDRESS:** 514 Hedgegate North Court, Tiffin, OH 44883

**EDUCATION:** B.A., Michigan State University; M.A. & Ph.D., OSU;

**OCCUPATION:** Strategic Planner

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Elected to Ohio Senate 1992 & 1996; Vice Chairman, State Employment Relations Board 1997-2007.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:** Prior experience in the Senate; National Freshman Legislator of the Year; voted for 46 tax cuts; twice received "Bulldog of the Treasury Award"; returned tax dollars to district; kept my promises to the voters for improvements to the economy, education, healthcare, agriculture, safety and workers' compensation reform.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:** Reconvene "Cupp Commission" to eliminate unfunded mandates to education, examine performance of the CAT tax as a revenue vehicle, revisit workers' compensation reform, review equity in school funding, sustain rural medicine, stimulate alternative energy sources while expanding current sources of Ohio energy, attract new business by streamlining licensing and permitting

**THOMAS L. KRUSE** - Democrat

**AGE:** 68

**ADDRESS:** 712 Grove St. Marysville

**EDUCATION:** 2 YRS COLLEGE

**OCCUPATION:** 3 term Mayor

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** 1 term City Councilman, 25 years small business owner Deputy Director of Industrial Relations for Ohio.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:** I care about people. I build relationships, foster discussion and build consensus I understand the needs of small communities.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:** While the legislature does approve the budget it is the Governor's budget. Until he submits it it's not possible to make those plans.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:** "I believe the Ohio Revised Code statutes that refer to the Office of Attorney General currently in place are well thought out and give the office an appropriate amount of authority. We have arrived at this special election not because of a failing in the authority of the office of Attorney General, but rather because of the personal failings of the last Attorney General. The office has worked very well under the last several Attorneys General and therefore I do not believe that sweeping new authority is needed.

However, I have offered several policy proposals as to how I would improve the office, including the creation of an Ad hoc committee to streamline the various ongoing investigations into the office, the creation of new fellowships to reward professionalism and improve morale, and a Public Corruption Commission to ensure that these types of scandals never again taint the office."

**RICHARD CORDRAY** - Democrat

**ADDRESS:** 340 E. Fulton Street

Columbus, OH 43215

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFO:**

<http://www.cordrayforohio.com/about/biography.html>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:** "Ohio's Attorney General should use all the powers of the office against anyone who tries to scam Ohioans or use 'gotcha' tactics to take their hard-earned dollars. As Attorney General, I would carry on the work begun in the State Treasurer's office to educate consumers about predatory practices and making informed financial decisions. Financial education helps, but the rule of law is the critical tool to protect the financial security of Ohioans. Specifically, we will continue our work on foreclosure prevention (taking on predatory lenders, appraisers, flippers, and foreclosure "prevention" scammers); stand up for fair consumer practices by credit card companies (including marketing to students on campus); initiate a Senior Strike Force to prevent consumer fraud against seniors; and battle every kind of unfair financial practice that takes money out of our pockets or jobs from our hometowns."

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:** "As the only candidate who has actually worked in the Attorney General's office as Ohio's first State Solicitor, I understand the expansive powers of the office and do not plan initially to seek broader powers. Instead, I intend to exercise my authority to uphold the standards of professionalism and restore public trust in the office. I also will protect the financial interests of Ohioans and be a strong partner to local law enforcement. I will reconstitute the Criminal Law Project to help local prosecutors arguing in the Ohio Supreme Court to keep criminals behind bars, establish commissions to assist on budgetary issues for local law enforcement, and work closely with small businesses to provide an early warning system and dispute mediation to reduce costs. If the structure or functions of the office prove inadequate, I will work with both sides of the aisle in the General Assembly to address that."

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## (81ST DISTRICT)

**Term:** 2 years      **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$60,584

**Responsibilities:** To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

**Questions for Candidates for State Representative of the 81st District:** What should be done to make Ohio more business friendly?

**ANDREW KASHMER** - Democrat

**AGE:** 27

**ADDRESS:** 8322 West Mud Creek Road, Oak Harbor, OH 43449

**EDUCATION:** Associate's Degree in English Language and Literature from Terra Community College; unfinished Communications major at the University of Toledo

**OCCUPATION:** Teacher's Aide for Student's with Special Needs at Woodmore Elementary School

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Eagle Scout, former Self-Employed Masonry Contractor

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:**

The key to making Ohio more business friendly is education. We need to attract businesses here to create more jobs, be we don't just want jobs; we want jobs that pay a living wage. To do that, we need the best educated workers. Our current school funding system in Ohio was ruled unconstitutional 10 years ago. We are still without a solution. Ohio needs a system that adequately and equitably funds every school district. This is a necessary first step to give all Ohio children an equal chance at a good education. Worldwide, the United States is 24th in Math, 21st in Science, and 21st in graduation rates. The schools and teachers are doing the best they can with what they have been given. It's the state's responsibility to make sure they have the money and tools to meet our needs. I'm 27 and I've been married for 5 years now. My wife, Cara, and I are almost ready to start a family. I want my children to have the best public education and opportunities to work in this community when they graduate. And I want that for your children too. That's why I'm running for State Representative.

**JEFF WAGNER** - Republican

**AGE:** 48

**ADDRESS:** 7760 S. SR 100, Sycamore, OH 44882

**EDUCATION:** 1978 graduate Mohawk High School

**OCCUPATION:** State Representative \ Farmer

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Mohawk School Board 1992-1994, North Central Ohio ESC Board of Governors 1994-1996, Seneca County Commissioner 1997-2002 State Representative 2003-Present

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:**

In 2005 we began a complete phase out of the tangible personal property tax and the corporate franchise tax along with a 21% reduction in the income tax. The first thing we need to do is continue the phase out of the tangible personal property tax and the corporate franchise tax paid by business and continue the reduction of the

state income tax, which is a large tax for many small businesses. This will be accomplished by 2010 and should make us much more competitive with other states. We need to continue to rein in lawsuit abuse through tort reform. During my time as State Representative we have set limits on punitive and non-economic awards, set a 10 year statute of repose, did asbestos tort reform, etc. We sue each other too much in this country. Not only is it bad for the business climate it is bad for us as Americans. We also need to continue to try and make workers comp more affordable. We have done a number of reforms, but I think the real answer is to privatize the agency.

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## (58TH DISTRICT)

**Term:** 2 years      **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$60,584

**Responsibilities:** To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

**Questions for Candidates for State Representative of the 58th District:** What should be done to make Ohio more business friendly?

**TERRY R. BOOSE** - Republican

***Candidate response was not received by publication deadline.***

**TERRY TRASTER** - Democrat

**ADDRESS:** 1013 Milan Avenue Amherst, Ohio 44001

**OCCUPATION:** Construction Supervisor at the Amherst Historical Society

**EDUCATION:** Amherst Marion L. Steele High School Class of 1975

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Journey Man Status in Construction and Pattern Making, Amherst City Council 10 Years, Design Review Board, Zoning Board

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** There are numerous ways to make Ohio more business friendly. We can make Ohio a more business-friendly state by first investing in technology and research. This would create more opportunities for businesses to create and invest in the jobs of tomorrow. It is this area that holds the most promise for Ohio's future. We MUST keep our college graduates in Ohio; however, the only way to do that is to create jobs they can work at. It is very important to keep Ohio's best and brightest within the state and even attract more talent with jobs and opportunities that would work best for them. We should work with Lee Fisher and the Ohio Department of Development to make Ohio an environmental friendly state, that is, create "green" jobs for our working class citizens to become a part of. The 58<sup>th</sup> district holds tremendous opportunities in this field. We should utilize our resources to turn wind into electricity and our crops into fuel for our cars. And of course we need to create tax cuts to both small and large businesses that stay in Ohio so we can keep the jobs that we have.

# **SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

**Term:** 6 years

**Salary:** \$141,600

**Responsibilities:** To hear all cases involving questions arising under the Ohio Constitution or statutes; to hear appeals from Courts of Appeals decisions. The Supreme Court's decisions are final except in cases involving the U.S. Constitution, statutes, or treaties.

**Questions for Candidates for Supreme Court Justice:** 1) What is your response to research indicating that judicial decisions tend to favor large campaign contributors? 2) Do you believe that all Ohioans have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can be done to provide wider and better access?

**Term beginning 01-01-09**

**Number to be elected:** 1

**MAUREEN O'CONNOR** - Republican

**ADDRESS:** 211 S. Fifth Street

Columbus, OH 42315

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFO:**

<http://www.oconnorforjustice.com/about.php>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:** "I do not agree that objective research indicates that decisions of the courts favor campaign contributors. Contributions follow the philosophy of a justice, not the other way around. There are limits on the dollar amount for contributions. These amounts are deemed reasonable and as long as Ohio maintains an elected selection process for our judiciary and the contributors follow the law on campaign limits and there is open disclosure, the system should work as it is intended."

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:** "Ohio has a good system of representation for those who are unable to afford legal representation. Our members of the bar are generous in their efforts to provide services. Having said that I believe that any system can be improved upon and ours is no exception. The bar in Ohio is encouraged to participate in rendering pro bono services. I believe that an expansion of the program to start in law school will assist in creating and expanding a culture of pro bono representation among the new lawyers."

**JOSEPH D. RUSSO** - Democrat

**ADDRESS:** 3099 Huntington Road, Shaker

Heights, OH 44120

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFO:**

<http://www.judgerussoforjustice.com/about.htm>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:**

"I am very concerned by public surveys that find that 83% of voters believe campaign contributions influence the decisions of the Ohio Supreme Court. Numerous newspaper articles have pointed to a correlation between campaign contributions and the votes of members of our Court. The New York Times in the article "Campaign Cash Mirrors a High Court's Rulings" points to a correlation between campaign contributions and individual Ohio Supreme Court Justice's votes in judicial decisions in Ohio. In that article, the Times states that Ohio Supreme Court Justices "routinely sat on cases after receiving campaign contributions from the parties involved" and "on average . . . voted in favor of contributors 70 percent of the time." My opponent votes in favor of her contributors 74% of the time. I

use a rule that would force Justices to disqualify themselves from cases involving their largest contributors. My opponent opposes this rule."

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:**

"Ohioans do not have adequate access to legal help. There are several ways to provide wider and better access. First, for simple cases, we must make forms and instruction available to the general public, as they have in Maricopa County, Arizona, where they have thrown open the doors of the courthouse to the general public with help from court staff and law school students to enable the general public to access the legal system and settle their simple disputes often without the help of a lawyer. In addition, I believe that we must properly fund our legal clinics throughout the state so that the public has access to attorneys to handle more intricate legal matters. Finally, a rule requiring every attorney in the State, as part of their Continuing Legal Education requirements, to provide pro bono services to the public should be considered."

**Term beginning 01-02-09**

**Number to be elected:** 1

**PETER M. SIKORA** - Democrat

**ADDRESS:** 10710 Edgewater Drive, Cleveland, OH 44102

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFO:**

<http://www.sikoraforjustice.com/about.html>

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:**

"The strength of our judiciary rests in the confidence Ohioans have in the fairness and impartiality of the court. The legitimacy of the court is undermined when studies show people believe contributions influence decisions. There is a serious need to restore confidence in the court, based on the fact that Supreme Court Justices routinely sit on cases after receiving campaign contributions from the parties involved or from groups that filed supporting briefs. On average, they voted in favor of the contributors 70% of the time. This emphasizes the need for balance on the court – so that every citizen can be assured that all perspectives will be considered before decisions are made."

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:**

"As a society we need to ensure that people have access to affordable quality legal assistance. It is incumbent upon all of us – as well as those in the legal profession – to come forward and assist those who can not afford representation. Specifically, this includes an increase in pro-bono efforts in the legal community."

**EVELYN L. STRATTON** - Republican

**ADDRESS:** 211 S. Fifth Street, Columbus, OH 43215

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFO:**

[http://www.strattonforsupremecourt.com/?page=about\\_justice\\_stratton](http://www.strattonforsupremecourt.com/?page=about_justice_stratton)

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:**

"I believe this portrays an inaccurate perception of the judiciary that is fueled by the media, not by reality. A New York Times article, published two years ago, reported that I had voted in favor of my contributors in 55% of the cases in which I participated through March 2006. This was the lowest percentage attributed to any justice identified. However, this also indicated that in 45% of those cases I had voted against those who had

contributed to my campaign. The vast majority of the contributions to my last campaign were \$100 or less. In addition, there are now campaign limits of \$3000 per person and \$5500 per political action committee. These limits greatly reduce the ability of a contributor to use the size of a contribution to influence a judge's decision."

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:**

"No. The availability of legal resources for those unable to afford an attorney is a problem in Ohio. In an effort to help persons gain access to the courts, the Supreme Court of Ohio supports the Legal Aid Society and provides financial assistance to the group. The Court is in the process of developing legal forms to assist persons in legal matters which should result in better access to the courts. I also have supported efforts to recruit and train attorneys to provide pro bono services to qualified homeowners in foreclosure cases. Attorneys should be encouraged to assist those who cannot afford an attorney in all areas of the law. I will also focus efforts on pro bono services for Ohio's military veterans and reserve troops in my work on mental health court reforms."

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**Term:** 4 years

**Salary:** \$55,524

**Responsibilities:** To exercise financial control of county expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to let contracts; to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments.

**Question for Candidates for County Commissioner:** What do you see as the major issues facing Seneca County in the next four years?

**Term beginning 01-02-09**

**Number to be elected:** 1

**JACQUELINE A. FLETCHER** - Democrat

**ADDRESS:** 7890 East Township Road 8; Republic, Ohio 44867

**AGE:** 68

**EDUCATION:** Earned a Bachelors Degree in Education from Ashland University, a Masters Degree in Education from Bowling Green State University, further course work from Ohio State University.

**OCCUPATION:** Retired.

**Training and Experience:** Teacher for more than 30 years; an active member in the LWV for 28 years, and have three grown children and two grandchildren.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Economic development is at the core of our county's prospering. Government costs continue to increase, but the tax base is weakening. We have a net loss of 2,545 people in the last decade. When a job is lost, perhaps a home is foreclosed, and the consequences spread throughout the neighborhood. Tax collections diminish; fewer people are left to pay for services like emergency, police and fire protection, road improvements, sewer and water, and schools. Buildings sit empty, deteriorating.

I pledge to have the political courage to cut spending and reinvest in development. I will also collaborate and cooperate with other government entities.

Over-crowding in the Juvenile-Probate Court and neglect in the Juvenile Detention Center require fiscally responsible solutions. I will be open, resourceful, and diligent in addressing these issues. The Development Group working with the Port Authority is an example of an opportunity that must be explored.

We still have one of the highest fatality and injury rates in Ohio on the roads in our county. The situation is made more critical now since several school consolidations put more young people on the roads early and late. I will make road safety a priority.

#### **CHERYL HUSS**

**AGE:** 47

**ADDRESS:** 223 W. Crestview Lane, Tiffin, Ohio 44883

**EDUCATION:** Tiffin Columbian (1979); Tiffin University, Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice, cum laude and received the Excellence in Forensic Psychology Award (2001)

**OCCUPATION:** Citizen, Seneca County Community Council Secretary, Suicide Prevention Coalition Member

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** planning, coordinating efforts and organizing events; developed, sustained, expanded programs; marketing; mediating, managing; educating, advocating, researching, and grant writing

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** The challenge of meeting expectations becomes more difficult as limited funding competes for an ever-growing list of priorities. A strategic financing plan (budget) must be proposed based on performance outcomes (accountability). County officials have a responsibility to the taxpayers to put forward initiatives that are ambitious yet realistic and cost effective.

Our public safety sector deserves the attention and priority to ensure services can be provided adequately across the county – generating support for safe, healthy and drug-free neighborhoods.

We live in a global economy. Seneca County has not done a very good job of promoting ourselves to be competitive in a global environment. Creating a county that is globally accessible through a local data infrastructure, keeping our technology updated for residents/county service providers; fostering incentives/opportunities for apprenticeships, internships, mentorship, summer jobs; bolstering academic/workforce readiness programs will enhance our county's positive features to attract high-tech companies, tier 1 and 2 suppliers that pay a living wage.

The challenge of keeping our roads maintained and upgraded (especially with rising asphalt prices), maintaining our infrastructure – providing safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

While it's not easy to predict the future, Seneca County can do better working together! The choice is yours!

**NATHAN A. MOWERY** - Write In

**AGE:** 22

**ADDRESS:** 153 S. Sandusky St.

**EDUCATION:** 2004 Graduate Tiffin Columbian High School

2004 Graduate Sentinel Career Center

Currently Attending Owens Community College

**OCCUPATION:** Manager - Fort Ball Pizza Palace

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Jobs & the economical situation. We need more jobs in Seneca County that pay more than minimum wage. You need a job that financially supports you and/or a Family and not have to just "get by". We need to stabilize our economy. Get rid of any un-needed purchases for the county & start thinking of the basic needs & necessities.

**DAVID G. SAUBER, SR** - Republican

**AGE:**

**ADDRESS:** 300 1/2 Ohio Avenue

**EDUCATION:** Columbian High School

Tiffin University, Law Enforcement

Owens College

Terra Tech

Sentinel Vocational

**OCCUPATION:** Commissioner

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

Owned and managed successful business

Sauber's Garage and Mini storage

Over 28 years business experience

Local 574 labor union, large construction

Insurance adjuster Nationwide Insurance

Reserve Deputy Sheriff 20 years

Life long resident knowing the issues

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Seneca County will face many issues over the next few years. As commissioner I will continue to promote economic growth through tax incentives, tax increment financing, along with funding for SIEDC and FEDC; I will continue to be fiscally responsible by holding costs down and utilizing technology for efficiency. We have a comprehensive road study to promote safer roads and economic growth. As commissioner, I will continue to address our space needs issue; work on short and long-term maintenance of our properties. Our EMS is a volunteer system that is experiencing some issues. With today's economy and family obligations, it is difficult to volunteer your time and keep up with the mandated training hours. I have been working directly with our EMS director to resolve this issue, which will take a county wide effort with all elected officials. As commissioner, I work every day to make Seneca County a great place to live and raise a family. I will continue to look at the glass half-full not half empty. The next four years are very important and I ask for your vote to continue down the road to success. **EXPERIENCE COUNTS!** [www.re-electsauber.com](http://www.re-electsauber.com)

**Term beginning 01-03-09**

**Number to be elected: 1**

**TERRY LOVE**

**AGE:** 43

**ADDRESS:** 11650 W. US Hwy. 224 Alvada, OH 44802

**EDUCATION:** 1983 Graduate Hopewell-Loudon H.S. Bachelor's Degree Mass Communication (Broadcasting) B.G.S.U.

**OCCUPATION:** Hospitality Director for Ritz Theatre

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

Single Father with custody of my 5 yr. old daughter.

Assisted writing the State grant for Hopewell-Loudon School Breakfast Program. Partner online business [keeneredge.com](http://keeneredge.com)

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** The overriding issue facing our county is its economic stability and growth. I doubt anyone will deny that the economic climate in Seneca County has worsened over the past 4 years under the current leadership. The reductions of employment at National Machinery, the loss of American Standard, and the announced losses of Honeywell and Thyssen-Krupp and the losses of several small businesses around the area. With the State's continued belt tightening and its institution of the CAT tax (in place of the personal property taxes that the county used to receive); we need an expanding local economy to offset the losses in funding. That, we do not have. I want to bring back business and prosperity to Seneca County. Bringing jobs back to Seneca County, real jobs that pay wages that a family can live on, jobs that will allow our children to find gainful employment here rather than moving to somewhere else. It is time for some fresh ideas and a new direction to make Seneca County more attractive to business and investment; while allowing established businesses to flourish and expand. Everyday more "House For Sale" signs appear in Seneca County as people are economically forced to move elsewhere to survive.

**BEN NUTTER** - Democrat

**ADDRESS:** 5319 N TR 137 Tiffin, Ohio 44883

bennutter@yahoo.com

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor in Business Administration, Additional course work in Accounting and Graduate level course work toward Masters in Public Administration.

**OCCUPATION:** Seneca County Commissioner 2005-present; Captain, Fire and Rescue Division, City of Tiffin 1996-present.

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** OSU Excel Commissioner Training. Treasurer/Executive Committee member of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** The financial stability of Seneca County depends on the Commissioners continuing to focus on creating an atmosphere in which businesses can thrive. Seneca County has seen almost \$200 million in private development in the last for years. In a time when most of Ohio and the United States have seen sharp declines in tax base and revenue, Seneca County has actually increased its tax base and not increased taxes. This success is the result of strong fiscal and business planning by the Commissioners. We are creating a more efficient County Government through technology that allows us to provide a high level of service to the residents at a lower cost.

In the past, Seneca County's resources have been sorely neglected. In response to these difficult issues I developed a space utilization plan that includes preserving our assets and infrastructure for future generations. The Ohio EPA is working very hard to ensure that future generations have clean water. As part of this effort certain areas within the County have been ordered to create centralized sanitary sewer systems. Clean water is important to all of us and I will continue to work on alternative funding solutions that will not overwhelm our residents.

**HOLLY M. STACY** - Republican

**AGE:** 44

**ADDRESS:** 8550 N.C.R. 51 Green Springs, Ohio 44836  
hmstacy@embarqmail.com

**EDUCATION:** B.S. in Agriculture, Ohio State University  
M.B.A., Tiffin University

**OCCUPATION:** President/CEO, Chamber of Commerce of Sandusky County, 2003 – present

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

>Old Fort Board of Education, 2004 – present; President 3 years

>Over 20 years in communications, PR, media relations and public involvement work

>OSU Extension, ODOT, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** In the next four years Seneca County will need to be addressing county financial stability, economic development, transportation infrastructure and workforce development. The finan-

cial condition of the county needs to be monitored and managed cautiously, factoring in trends for our modest rural based community. Long range plans needs to be observed and updated when significant factors adjust. This will help in financial planning for the future.

Economic development, including retention and expansion, needs to continually be addressed. All county stakeholders need to work together to secure the business investments that have been made and attract new ones. This requires the review of all county assets, from workforce to education, and from community pride to utilities. Transportation infrastructure needs will need to be addressed to make our area attractive for business growth. The last link that is equally important is that of workforce development. We need to inventory the types of jobs that exist, the future needs of businesses and know the training assets that are needed to make sure the two merge. The trends for more high tech jobs needs to be meet. We have educational assets that will help make this important link.

## COUNTY AUDITOR

**Term:** Unexpired term to end 03/13/2011

**Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$68,390

**Responsibilities:** To value real property in each county; to maintain county financial records and issue warrants for the payment of county obligations.

**Question for Candidates for County Auditor:** What procedures would you implement in this office to ensure best practice and compliance with state requirements?

**JULIE A. ADKINS** - Republican

**AGE:** 41 years

**ADDRESS:** 3490 West Township Road 98, Tiffin, OH 44883

**EDUCATION:** Graduate New Riegel High School  
Graduate Tiffin University – Associate Degree Legal Secretarial Science

**OCCUPATION:** Seneca County Auditor. The Auditor is the fiscal officer of the county.

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

Employed in Seneca County Auditor's Office nearly 20 years

Currently responsible for overseeing daily operation of all aspects of the County Auditor's statutory duties. Oversee 9 employees within the Auditor's office and oversee \$73,138,536.25\* budget of all Seneca County departments. Coordinate and cooperate with other elected officials and administrative personnel.

\*as of 8/31/08 expense report

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** I would like to offer the general public the convenience of using their debit or credit card for dog licensing fees and conveyance fee payments over the counter. Currently the only acceptable forms of payment are cash or check. I'm in the process of examining the legal and fiscal feasibility of such a policy.

I am currently working on some additional enhancements to the Seneca County Auditor's website – [www.senecacountyauditor.org](http://www.senecacountyauditor.org) [www.senecacountyaudit.org](http://www.senecacountyaudit.org). The Auditor's website was unveiled in 2005. Since then, the website has undergone some changes. I would like the site to become even more accessible, more user friendly to the public, and more current in the information provided.

I'd like to encourage cooperation between the Auditor's Office and Treasurer's Office in providing education and training on current technology capabilities in order to increase efficiency and coordination of efforts for, and between, both offices.

I have currently been working to modernize state prescribed forms used in the office to increase efficiency. Key among them are rollback forms allowing the elderly on fixed incomes a tax reduction on their real estate taxes.

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**Term:** 4 years                      **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$95,326 + supplement of \$20,377

**Responsibilities:** To investigate and prosecute crimes committed within the county, to defend the county in court and to give legal advice to county agencies and townships.

**Question for Candidates for Prosecuting Attorney:** If elected, what would be your priorities in fulfilling the duties of the office?

### DEREK W. DeVINE

**AGE:** 40

**ADDRESS:** 22 Herrick Court, Tiffin, Ohio 44883

[derekdevine@bizwoh.rr.com](mailto:derekdevine@bizwoh.rr.com)

**EDUCATION:** 1990 graduate of the University of Evansville; 1993 graduate of Ohio Northern University College of Law.

**OCCUPATION:** Attorney with Lange & DeVine Law Offices

#### **TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

5 1/2 years assistant Seneca Co. Prosecutor prosecuting adult felony offenders; special prosecutor in neighboring counties and cities; general practice attorney since 2000.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** My priorities include increasing the effectiveness of criminal prosecution in Seneca County. I will work together with law enforcement and city prosecutors to insure that criminal activity is sternly dealt with on a daily basis. Today that system is broken.

I will also represent the county commissioners in lawsuits like the courthouse cases saving taxpayers thousands of dollars. To date, Seneca County has spent over \$140,000 on out of town lawyers to do the work the prosecutor was elected to do. The prosecutor says that this was the decision of the commissioners. If this is true then either the commissioners feel the pros-

ecutor is incompetent to do the work or he is inefficient and unable to accomplish the work despite having the largest staff and budget compared to neighboring counties.

Of course, the last major lawsuit against the county (with Mr. Egbert, Jr. representing them every step of the way) resulted in Kay Ranker winning her lawsuit and getting her attorney fees paid. Maybe the Commissioners just wanted to win for a change.

Finally, I pledge to treat everybody who comes into contact with the prosecutor's office fairly. I will be there full time and provide full service.

### KEN EGBERT, JR - Republican

**AGE:** 44

**ADDRESS:** 379 Coe Street, Tiffin, OH 44883  
[dmegbert@bright.net](mailto:dmegbert@bright.net); [www.egbertprosecutor.com](http://www.egbertprosecutor.com)

#### **EDUCATION:**

Tiffin Columbian High School, 1982, cum laude  
B.A., The Ohio State University, 1986, cum laude  
J.D., The University of Toledo College of Law, 1989

**OCCUPATION:** Seneca County Prosecutor

**TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:** Seneca County Prosecutor (1999- present) (full-time)  
Assistant Seneca County Prosecutor (1989-1999) (full-time)

Prosecutor Intern, Perrysburg, Ohio (1989)

Numerous Prosecutor Training Courses (1989-present)

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION:**

(1) Continue my full-time, on the job commitment as County Prosecutor as I pledged since being elected, in order to work for the community's interest in enforcing the law, using my 19 years of trial experience to hold criminals accountable in court for their crimes, seek justice for victims, and pursue tough sentences for violent offenders, drug dealers, child molesters, and repeat offenders who poison our local communities with crime;

(2) Seek stiffer sentences to protect the community from criminals who work together, similar to the corrupt activity RICO charges we instituted, which carry more severe penalties to attack organized drug rings such as the successful prosecutions in "Operation Blockbusta," a 100% conviction rate as 17 of 17 drug dealers were convicted of corrupt drug activity and now are serving 193 years in prison;

(3) Place increased emphasis on the prosecution of child molesters and violent sex offenders, who are Public Enemy Number One due to their higher likelihood to re-offend, and inform parents in our communities more about computer-facilitated sex crimes and other criminal offenses perpetrated over the internet to keep our children and families safe in Seneca County. Please see [www.egbertprosecutor.com](http://www.egbertprosecutor.com) for more about Re-Elect Egbert for Prosecutor.

# CLERK OF COURTS

**Term:** 4 years      **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$53,214

**Responsibilities:** To enter judgements and collect court costs for appellate and common pleas courts, and also to issue and transfer automobile and water craft certificates of title.

**Question for Candidates for Clerk of Courts:** Have funding problems impacted your office?

**MARY K. WARD** - Republican

**AGE:** 52

**ADDRESS:** 7335 S. Twp. Rd. 159, Sycamore, Ohio 44882    mward@acctiffin.com

**EDUCATION:** 1974 Mohawk High School Graduate

**OCCUPATION:**

Clerk of Courts of the Common Pleas Court Legal and Title Departments and The Third District Court of Appeals

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:**

Deputy Clerk of Courts for 13 years

Ohio Clerk of Courts Association Professional Development Seminars 8 years

Basic Computer, Excel and Human Resources classes

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Funding constraints have created many challenges in the Clerk of Courts Offices: Criminal cases, civil cases, Certificate of Judgments, and miscellaneous services have increased 50% over the past 7-8 years, but staffing had not been increased sufficiently to handle the increased work load.

Overall staff hours had to be reduced to stay within the limits of the budget.

Limited spending for office supplies while still maintaining the increased demand of the additional case load by working with the vendor's.

Had to adjust staffing schedule to maintain regular business hours and continue to provide the same quality of service.

Annual salary increases were not given to staff.

Records retention was halted because the Microfilm department was closed do to the budget cuts.

Had to rely on alternative fund accounts to purchase computer supplies, hardware, and software to improve office technology and to resume the records retention process (scanning).

Implemented new services to create additional funding.

# SHERIFF

**Term:** 4 years      **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$61,664 + supplement of \$7,708

**Responsibilities:** To provide services to the courts, to oversee the county jail, and to act as chief law enforcement officer for the county.

**Question for Candidates for Sheriff:** Have patrols and response times been affected due to rising energy costs?

**THOMAS G. STEYER** - Republican

**ADDRESS:** 21 Hall St. Tiffin, Ohio 44883

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor Degree - Criminal Justice, Baldwin-Wallace College. Master - Criminal Justice, Tiffin University.

**OCCUPATION:** Sheriff

**TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:** Law Enforcement Officer for 33 years. Patrol Officer, Detective, Sergeant, Police Chief Medina, & Tiffin Ohio, Sheriff 7 plus years. Graduate FBI National Academy - Graduate Ohio Police Executive Leadership College - Graduate Ohio Certified Law Enforcement Executives.

**ANSWER TO QUESITON:** The cost of fuel for the Seneca County Sheriff's Office increased from an average of \$6,000 in 2007 to roughly \$9,000 in 2008. Even with the rising energy cost, the patrols and response times have not been affected.

The only things I have asked deputies to do to conserve gas is, when they are out of their cruiser to turn their engines off. And, deputies were told when investigating a complaint if they can obtain the information they need for their investigation without responding to the complainant's location, they can handle the complaint over the telephone.

In spite the rising cost of fuel, the Seneca County Sheriff's Office patrols and response times have not been affected.

# COUNTY RECORDER

**Term:** 4 years      **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$50,203

**Responsibilities:** To record deeds, mortgages plats, liens, and other written instruments.

**Question for Candidates for County Recorder:** Are there any further improvements needed for this office?

**MICHAEL J. DELL** - Republican

**AGE:** 46

**ADDRESS:** 324 Coe St.

**EDUCATION:**

Terra Community College, Associates Degree in Business Administration, Majoring in Computer Programming

**OCCUPATION:** Seneca County Recorder

**TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:** I previously worked as a Title Abstractor, Office Manager and in the IT Department of a local bank

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** There is always futher improvements that can be made. I am always looking for ways to improve the efficiency of the office, and provide the best possible service to the people of Seneca County.

# COUNTY ENGINEER

**Term:** 4 years **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$90,174

**Responsibilities:** To oversee the construction, maintenance, repair of all bridges in the county, and for county roads and other public improvements except building in the county.

**Question for Candidates for County Engineer:** Do you anticipate making adjustments in services due to the economy?

**MARK R. ZIMMERMAN** - Republican

**AGE:** 40

**ADDRESS:** 357 N. SR 101, Tiffin

**EDUCATION:** Graduated 1990, OSU Agriculture & Economics

2000, Toledo University, Civil Engineering

2002, Owens Community College, Surveying

**TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:** Current Seneca Co. Engineer.

1991-1996 - Program Administrator Seneca Soil & Water Conservation

1996-1998 - Director of Regional Planning

1998-2007 - Engineer - Seneca County Engineer

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Yes, Market forces have driven the cost of construction thru the roof. This year we have experienced a 75% increase in fuel, 40% increase to salt, 100% increase to steel, 50% increase to asphalt. These are our budget drivers. Being solely funded on gas tax & license fees, and having people driving less & with more efficient vehicles means less revenues along with the increased costs. We have begun a maintenance/fix it first policy where before we may have replaced a bridge now we will repair it.

# COUNTY TREASURER

**Term:** 4 years **Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$53,214

**Responsibilities:** To collect taxes in the county and its subdivisions, disburse expenditures, and invest the county's funds.

**Question for Candidates for County Treasurer:** What procedures would you implement in this office to ensure best practice and compliance with state requirements?

**DAMON D. ALT** - Republican

**ADDRESS:** 118 1/2 W. Center Street Apt 1

damonalt@bright.net

**EDUCATION:** Mohawk High School

Eastern Michigan University, Accounting Degree

University of Toledo, College of Law, Juris Doctor

**OCCUPATION:** Certified Public Accountant and Attorney

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Worked for several Certified Public Accounting Firms handling and working on audits of non-profit, private companies, and pension plan audits, monthly compilation engagements (which included reconciling the bank account monthly, making monthly journal entries), and preparation of individual and business income tax returns.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** There are several procedures that I would implement in the Treasurers' office in order to make sure there is compliance with state requirements. First and foremost, I would make sure that all cash accounts are reconciled with bank statements on a monthly basis using a reconciliation form, keeping all documentation attached so that it can be easily understood by any other third parties that may be reviewing it. This also ensures everything is in order for the annual audit and for the auditors to review at any given time.

Also, I would implement internal controls to ensure and safeguard the county's funds, such as making sure all cash drawers are balanced daily and funds and deposits received are properly accounted for. Each employee of the treasurer's office would have their own username for use with the computer system in order to ensure there is an appropriate trail showing which employees are using the system in performance of the office's duties.

Finally, each and every month, the treasurer's office would work closely with the auditor's office to make sure that all items are reconciled monthly. It is imperative that these two offices maintain constant communication and have a strong working relationship.

**MARGUERITE O. BERNARD** - Democrat

**AGE:** 75

**ADDRESS:** 170 Hillcrest Dr. Tiffin Oh. 44883

sweet4@bright.net

**EDUCATION:** Calvert High School; Heidelberg College B.S.degree.

**OCCUPATION:** Seneca County Treasurer

**TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:** I have worked in the Recorder's, Auditor's and Treasurer's offices. As a veteran treasurer I have obtained over twenty-four hours of additional education over a two year period as required.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** As treasurer I am county banker, investment manager, tax collector and safekeeper of all taxes. All these practices have been done in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code.

# COUNTY CORONER

**Term:** 4 years

**Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$41,165

**Responsibilities:** To determine the cause of death of persons dying in a violent or suspicious manner and issues death certificates.

**MARK AKERS**

*Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.*

# COMMON PLEAS COURT JUVENILE/PROBATE JUDGE

**Term:** 6 years

**Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$121,350

**Responsibilities:** To rule in cases involving persons under 18 years of age. The Juvenile Court has authority in cases of delinquency, unruliness, juvenile traffic offenses, abuse, neglect and dependency. The court also oversees the Probate Court.

**Question for Candidates for Common Pleas Court Juvenile/Probate Judge:** What are your priorities once in office?

**JAY MEYER**

**AGE:** 36

**ADDRESS:** 4552 S. SR. 231, Tiffin, Ohio 44883

**EDUCATION:** Tiffin Columbian – 1989; Ohio Northern University – 1993 B.A. Business Administration; Ohio Northern University – 1996 Juris Doctorate

**OCCUPATION:** Attorney

**TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** 1996-1998 Assistant County Prosecutor. Prosecuted felony welfare fraud crimes. Worked with Seneca County CSEA to enforce child support orders.

1998-Present. Private practitioner focusing on small business representation real estate and probate.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** My priorities when I take office in February are as follows:

- 1) Continue Judge Kutcher's legacy of public service by striving to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Juvenile and Probate Court. To accomplish this, I will evaluate the policies, procedures and people currently in place and determine if any improvements are necessary to ensure that all cases/matters are heard with the promptness and thoughtfulness they deserve.
- 2) Strengthen ties and communication between the Juvenile Court and those on the front lines who come in contact with wayward youth. To accomplish this, I will encourage the Juvenile Probation Department to be responsive to the needs of law enforcement, educators, parents and other community stakeholders.
- 3) Create a greater public awareness of the need to improve the facilities for the Juvenile and Probate Court and Juvenile Detention Center. To accomplish this, I will be a zealous advocate for the needs of the Juvenile and Probate Court and work with county government to improve facilities in a manner that is mindful of the means of Seneca County.

# COURT OF APPEALS

## JUSTICE 3RD DISTRICT

**Term:** 6 years

**Number to be elected:** 1

**Salary:** \$132,000

**Responsibilities:** The Court of Appeals is essentially a Court of Review. It hears appeals from the Common Pleas, County, and Municipal Courts, Decisions are final except in cases involving Constitutional questions, cases of felony, cases in which it has original jurisdiction, and cases of public or great general interest.

**VERNON L. PRESTON** - Republican

*Candidate was not questioned.*

## MEMBER STATE

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Term:** 4 years

**Number to be elected:** 6

(Districts 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11)

**Salary:** \$22.81 hourly rate per meeting

**Responsibilities:** Formulating and administering educational policies relating to instruction, teaching materials, buildings, equipment, transportation, finance and school district organization.

**Questions for Candidates for State Board of Education:** 1) What recommendations should the State Board of Education propose to ensure that community schools and voucher programs are accountable to the public? 2) Do you believe creationism (intelligent design) should be taught in the public schools?

**ANN JACOBS** - District 1

**ADDRESS:** 1529 Shawnee Road, Lima, Ohio 45805

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 1:** "The State Board of Education should advocate a funding process wherein, charter and community schools should be held to the same data integrity requirements and reporting standards as are public schools. Charter and community schools need to be mandated, in order to issue a high school diploma, to meet the State Board's minimum standards. There is a dire need for the legislature to enact laws, tightening administrative and financial oversight of charter and community schools."

**ANSWER TO QUESTION 2:** "There has been historically a separation of church and state. I do not feel creationism should be taught in public schools. That is a subject appropriate for religious entities to teach within their respective private venues."

**TRACEY SMITH** - District 1

*Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.*

**ISSUE 1: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
TO PROVIDE FOR EARLIER FILING DEADLINES FOR  
STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUES  
(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)**

**To amend Sections 1a, 1b, 1c, and 1g of Article II of the Ohio Constitution**

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, this proposed amendment will be effective immediately.

League Explanation of Issue 1:

This proposed constitutional amendment seeks to make the petition filing deadlines earlier for statewide ballot issues. Currently, the deadlines are 90 days before the election for statewide initiative petitions (laws and constitutional amendments proposed by citizens) and 60 days for statewide referendums (citizen-initiated votes to repeal new laws). The amendment would change these deadlines to 125 days for both. The proposal adds deadlines for public officials to act on the petitions. It requires the secretary of state to determine whether there are enough valid signatures on a petition by the 105th day before the election. Challenges must be filed in the Ohio Supreme Court not later than 95 days prior to the election. The Ohio Supreme Court must make its decision not later than 85 days prior to the election. If necessary, 10 additional days shall be allowed for the filing of additional signatures. The secretary of state shall check the additional signatures not later than 65 days before the election. Any challenges must be filed in the Ohio Supreme Court not later than 55 days before the election, and the court must rule on any challenges not later than 45 days before the election. If no ruling is made, the petition and signatures shall be presumed to be sufficient.

The proposed amendment would give the Ohio Supreme Court sole authority to consider these cases. Currently lower courts may hear these challenges.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

The earlier deadlines will allow more time to determine the validity of the petition and the signatures. This should reduce the number of invalid issues that appear on ballots and reduce voter confusion.

If deadlines are met, absentee voters and election-day voters will know which issues were supported by sufficient valid petitions.

The process should be more efficient because the amendment provides for specific deadlines for each step of the process.

Having the Ohio Supreme Court as the sole arbiter of challenges expedites the process.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

The revised deadlines may still not allow time to print correct ballots.

The revised deadlines decrease the time for each step of the review and may be difficult to meet.

The earlier deadlines for referenda may result in long delays for voter consideration of challenged laws because laws challenged by the referendum process are suspended until approved by voters. Challengers have 90 days after a law is passed to file a referendum petition. Because this may not be completed before the filing deadline for ballot issues, a vote on the challenged law may be postponed until the following general election.

As sole arbiter of challenges, the Ohio Supreme Court will not have the benefit of a record from lower courts.

**Websites: None**

**ISSUE 2: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE  
TO ISSUE BONDS TO CONTINUE THE CLEAN OHIO PROGRAM FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL, REVITALIZATION AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES  
(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)**

**To adopt Section 2q of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio**

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, this proposed amendment shall take effect immediately.

League Explanation of Issue 2: This ballot issue proposes a constitutional amendment that would add to funding for The Clean Ohio Program. The amendment is identical to the bond issue passed by the voters in 2000 and will provide the state with the authority to issue an additional \$400 million of bonds. These bonds could be used for the benefit of both governmental and non-governmental entities.

Conservation: Up to \$200 million in bonds could be issued for conservation purposes such as preservation of natural areas and farmlands, provision of recreation facilities, and natural resource management projects. Repayment of these bonds would be a general obligation of the state backed by the taxing power of the state.

Revitalization: Up to \$200 million in bonds could be issued for revitalization purposes such as environmental cleanup of publicly or privately owned lands. Repayment of these bonds would be secured by specific state revenues such as receipts from liquor taxes.

Limitations: The proposed amendment limits the amount that could be borrowed in any one fiscal year for either conservation or revitalization purposes to no more than \$50 million. In addition the state can borrow amounts which were authorized but not issued in prior fiscal years.

Reissuance: After a bond is repaid, another can be issued as long as the total amount outstanding does not exceed \$200 million for that type of bond.

Debt Service Expense: The Legislative Services Commission estimates that issuing \$400 million of obligations could increase the state's annual debt service expense by up to \$40 million. The Ohio Office of Budget and Management calculated that principle and interest payable in 2008 for all of the bonds already issued by Ohio is \$1,231,640,023.

This bonding authority must be approved by the voters because the Ohio constitution does not permit an appropriation being made for a period longer than two years.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

Bond monies could be used to improve drinking water, help keep rivers and streams clean, preserve and protect wildlife and farmland, and expand outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans.

Bond monies could be used to reduce the number of polluted industrial sites and clean up brown fields  
Revitalization of public and private lands could stimulate economic development in urban areas and increase private investment in Ohio.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

Tax monies will be diverted to paying principle and interest, and this may limit the availability of state revenue for other state programs.

This authority is not time-limited and permits new bonds to be reissued after the retirement of the original bonds without further vote of the people.

Proceeds from the sale of the publicly funded bonds may be used to benefit private entities.

**Websites: Websites not available for proponents and opponents.**

**ISSUE 3: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY  
RIGHTS IN GROUND WATER, LAKES AND OTHER WATERCOURSES  
(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)**

**To adopt Section 19b of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio**

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, this amendment shall take effect December 1, 2008.

League Explanation of Issue 3: This proposed amendment resulted from the Ohio legislature's passage of the Great Lakes Water Compact this past spring. Some lawmakers feared final approval of the Compact might limit private water rights. The constitutional amendment is intended to recognize that:

Property owners have a protected right to the "reasonable use" of the ground water flowing under their property, and of the water in a lake or watercourse that is on or flows through their property.

An owner has the right to give or sell these interests to a governmental body.

The public welfare supersedes individual property owners' rights. The state and political subdivisions may regulate such waters to the extent state law allows.

The proposed amendment would not affect public use of Lake Erie and the state's other navigable waters.

The rights confirmed by this amendment may not be limited by sections of the Ohio Constitution addressing home rule, public debt and public works, conservation of natural resources, and the prohibition of the use of "initiative" and "referendum" on property taxes.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. This amendment, if approved, is intended to reaffirm the rights and expectations of Ohio landowners to have reasonable use of the water on or under their properties.

The proposed amendment does not establish absolute private ownership of water.

It reiterates the state's right to regulate water use and water quality.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The amendment is unnecessary because current Ohio case law already recognizes property owners' interests in the reasonable use of surface and groundwater.
2. The Ohio Constitution should be a body of fundamental principles, and should not be amended unless there is a compelling reason.
3. The amendment could cause unexpected consequences and unintentional changes in current law.

**Websites:** None.

# ISSUE 5: REFERENDUM ON LEGISLATION MAKING CHANGES TO PAYDAY LENDING PRACTICES

## (A referendum on Section 3, House Bill 545)

A YES vote will cap the annual interest rate on payday loans at 28% and allow only the new regulations to apply to payday lenders. A

NO vote may allow payday lenders to charge up to 391% annual interest on a loan. Specifically, a NO vote may create a situation in which both the old and new laws coexist—thereby allowing payday lenders to choose to operate under either law.

A majority YES vote will allow only the new regulations affecting payday lenders to be in effect.

If approved, changes regulating payday lenders would go into effect immediately.

League Explanation of Issue 5: Voters are being asked if they want to uphold the legislature’s repeal of lenders’ authority to charge interest that could be as high as 391%. If the referendum is approved (the “yes” votes prevail), all short term lenders, including payday lenders, would be subject to the following limitations:

Cap the interest that payday lenders can charge consumers at 28%.

Limit the amount consumers may borrow from payday lenders to 25% of their monthly income, up to \$500 per loan.

Limit consumers to four short-term loans per year.

Provide for a minimum of at least 30 days for a borrower to repay a loan.

### **Proponents of the referendum argue that:**

The new regulations would cap the interest for payday loans at 28%, which effectively ends lenders’ ability to charge up to 391% interest.

2. Limiting the number of loans customers can take out annually would help break the cycle of debt in which many customers find themselves trapped. Data show that 99% of payday loans go to repeat borrowers— who typically take out 12 or more loans a year.
3. Passage of Issue 5 would give borrowers more time to repay a loan—and by limiting the amount a consumer can borrow, would help insure that customers do not borrow more than they can afford to repay.

### **Opponents of the referendum argue that:**

The 28% ceiling on interest rates will not allow lenders to make enough profit to stay in business; lenders will be forced to close locations convenient for borrowers and jobs will be lost.

The loans provide emergency assistance to cash-strapped borrowers who have no other credit options—and the loans are more affordable, if repaid promptly, than bank overdraft fees and credit card late fees.

A borrower’s choice is limited if the number of loans available in a year and the amount of each loan are curtailed. Each borrower should have the right to make their own financial decisions without government restrictions.

### **Websites:**

In support of placing new restrictions on payday lenders: PROTECT HB 545 Committee

“<http://www.yesonissue5.com/>”

In opposition to placing new restrictions on payday lenders: The Committee to Reject H.B. 545

“<http://www.ohioans4financialfreedom.com/>”

**ISSUE 6: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
TO AUTHORIZE A CASINO IN CLINTON COUNTY, OHIO  
(Proposed by Initiative Petition)**

To add a new Section 6a to Article XV of the Ohio Constitution

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 30 days after the election.

League Explanation of Issue 6: This amendment would authorize a privately-owned casino in Clinton County.

1. The operator would be required to pay a tax of up to 30% annually on gross casino receipts. "Gross casino receipts" excludes payments to winners. The tax would be allocated in the following ways:  
The Ohio General Assembly would have the authority to determine a reasonable amount to be used to fund a Gaming Regulatory Commission, and receipts will be used to pay the expenses of administering the tax. Up to 1% of the tax collected would be used to fund prevention and treatment programs for gambling addicts. Following those expenditures, 10% percent of any remaining casino tax receipts would be distributed to Clinton County, and the remaining receipts distributed among all 88 Ohio counties on a per capita basis, to be used as each county sees fit.
2. If another casino were permitted in Ohio, the tax on the Clinton County casino would drop to 25% of the gross casino receipts *or* the rate paid by the additional casino, whichever is less.
3. The casino operator must make a minimum initial investment of \$600 million for the development of a destination resort that would include the casino, a hotel and other related amenities.
4. The state may establish an initial license fee not to exceed \$15 million, which will be credited against the first \$15 million of taxes on gross casino receipts. There can be no further licensing fees for the Clinton County casino.
5. The state may not limit the amounts of the wagers or the hours of operation. The casino may conduct any type of card or table games, slot machines or electronic gaming devices permitted by the state of Nevada and states adjacent to Ohio, except bets on races or sporting events.
6. Persons must be 21 years old to place wagers at the casino.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Thirty-eight states—including Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—have casino gambling. By authorizing a casino in Ohio, the profits could benefit our state rather than other states.
2. All counties in Ohio may receive tax revenue generated by the casino, and each county can decide how to best spend its money.
3. The casino will also be required to pay all other applicable taxes.
4. The casino will create jobs in Clinton County.
5. The casino will stimulate the economy by adding restaurants, hotels and ancillary businesses.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The Ohio general revenue fund, which supports basic services for Ohioans, will get \$0 from the gross casino receipts tax.
2. If an additional casino were an Indian casino, which is exempt from taxes, the Clinton County casino might not pay any taxes, either, on the gross casino receipts.
3. Ohioans may spend money at the casino they would have spent at other existing Ohio businesses such as restaurants, movies, or sports events, adversely impacting those businesses.
4. Ohio lottery profits, currently dedicated to education, may decrease because people will gamble at the casino instead of playing the lottery.
5. The number of gambling addicts in Ohio would increase, and the tax receipts dedicated to providing treatment for addicts (0.3% of gross casino receipts) could be insufficient.

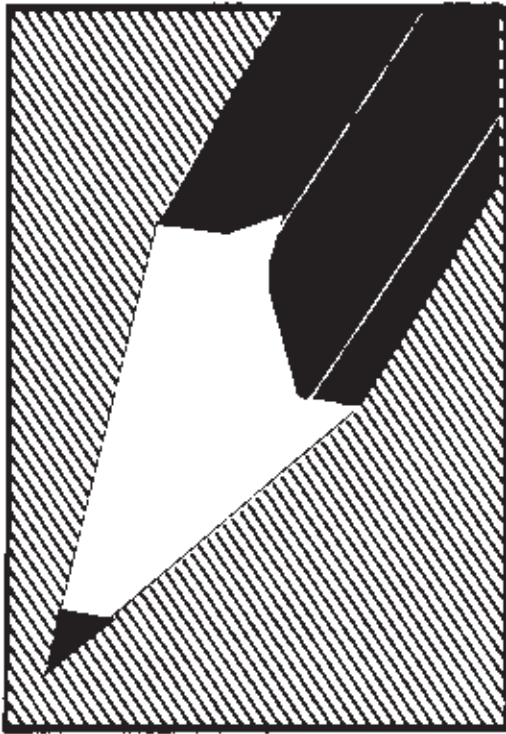
**Websites**

In support of the proposed amendment: My Ohio Now "<http://www.yesonissue6.com/>"

In opposition to the proposed amendment: Vote No Casinos "<http://www.votenocasinos.com/>"

QUESTIONS & ISSUES  
GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 4, 2008  
SENECA COUNTY

1. MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD - ADDITIONAL - 0.8 MILLS - OPERATION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS - 5 YEARS
2. TIFFIN CITY - REFERENDUM OF ORDINANCE NO. 07-70 - AUTHORIZING CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE SPECIFICATIONS AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR THE MIAMI STREET NEAR TIFFIN UNIVERSITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
3. FOSTORIA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - BOND ISSUE AND TAX LEVY - CONSTRUCTING, EQUIPPING, AND IMPROVING SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES - \$9,545,000 - 28 YEARS - 0.5 MILL - CONTINUING PERIOD OF TIME - PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS
4. HOPEWELL-LOUDON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - RENEWAL WITH AN INCREASE - \$570,000 - 63.2 MILLS - EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS - 5 YEARS
5. BETTSVILLE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - REPLACEMENT - RECREATIONAL PURPOSES FOR THE H.P. EELLS PARK BY THE BETTSVILLE RECREATION BOARD - 0.5 MILL - 5 YEARS
6. OLD FORT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - RENEWAL INCOME TAX - 1% - CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES - 5 YEARS
7. BELLEVUE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS - \$892,000 - 3.75 MILLS - 10 YEARS
8. EHOVE JOINT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - RENEWAL - CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES - 0.5 MILL - 5 YEARS
9. ATTICA VILLAGE - REPLACEMENT - CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES FOR POLICE PROTECTION - 3 MILLS - 5 YEARS
10. ATTICA VILLAGE - REPLACEMENT - CURRENT EXPENSES FOR OPERATION OF PARKS - 1/2 MILL - 5 YEARS
11. FOSTORIA 3-B PRECINCT - LOCAL OPTION - YESENIA'S MEXICAN STORE - SUNDAY SALES - BEER ONLY



**CANDIDATES'**

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**October 15, 2008**  
**Tiffin Middle School Auditorium**  
**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

*Sponsored by:*  
**Tiffin Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Seneca County Farm Bureau**  
**Heidelberg College**  
**Tiffin University**  
**The Advertiser-Tribune**  
**Tiffin Area League of Women Voters**  
**AAUW**  
**Seneca County Bar Association**

# POLLING LOCATIONS - SENECA COUNTY

GREEN SPRINGS VILLAGE	CITY BUILDING, 120 CATHERINE ST.
ADAMS TWP	VFW HALL, CORNER SR 778 & CR 44
NEW RIEGEL VILLAGE	JUNIOR HIGH GYM, 44 N. PERRY ST., NEW RIEGEL
BIG SPRING TOWNSHIP	JUNIOR HIGH GYM, 44 N. PERRY ST., NEW RIEGEL
BLOOMVILLE VILLAGE	VILLAGE OFFICE, 10 BEEGHLY AVE.
BLOOM TOWNSHIP	FIRE STATION, 74 S. MARION ST.
CLINTON A	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION, STATE RT 101
CLINTON B	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION, STATE RT 101
CLINTON C	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION #2, SR 100 & US 224
CLINTON D	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION, STATE RT 101
CLINTON E	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION #2, SR 100 & US 224
EDEN NORTH	COUNTY HIGHWAY GARAGE, SR 100
EDEN SOUTH	ODD FELLOWS HALL, ST RT 67 IN MELMORE
HOPEWELL A	PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, FAIRGROUNDS
HOPEWELL B	TWP TRUSTEES OFFICE, 5281 W TR 112
HOPEWELL C	BASCOM FIRE STATION
JACKSON EAST	TOWNSHIP HOUSE, CR 28 WEST OF AMSDEN
JACKSON WEST	TOWNSHIP FIRE STATION, 5348 N TR 112
BETTSVILLE VILLAGE	FIRE STATION, 308 EMMA ST., REAR ENTRANCE
LIBERTY A	ST. ANDREWS HALL, 3761 N SR 635
LIBERTY B	KANSAS FIRE STATION
LOUDON NORTH	LOUDON TWP. OFFICE, 9970 W TR 112
LOUDON SOUTH	LOUDON TWP. OFFICE, 9970 W TR 112
PLEASANT NORTH	TOWNSHIP HOUSE, OLD FORT
PLEASANT SOUTH	FORT SENECA UCC CHURCH IN FORT SENECA, SR 53
REED TOWNSHIP	REED CENTER, NW CORNER SR 162 & TR 81
REPUBLIC VILLAGE	REPUBLIC TOWN HALL
SCIPIO TWP	REPUBLIC TOWN HALL
SENECA A	McCUTCHEVILLE FIRE STATION
SENECA B	TRUSTEES OFFICE, CR 47 & CR 6
THOMPSON TWP	ZION UCC CHURCH, FIRESIDE
ATTICA VILLAGE	VILLAGE HALL, 20 SOUTH MAIN ST.
VENICE TOWNSHIP	AVR FIRE STATION, 221 S. MAIN ST.

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# About the League of Women Voters

## MISSION:

The mission of the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

## HISTORY:

In 1920, just six months before the U.S. Constitution was amended to give women the right to vote, the National American Woman Suffrage Association's President, Carrie Chapman Catt, proposed the creation of the League of Women Voters. The League's first purpose was to teach women how to exercise their new right to vote. Thus, the League was to "finish the fight" that the suffragists had started. For over 85 years the League has continued to serve all citizens and has opened its membership to any citizen of voting age, male or female. Today, the League of Women Voters is a three tier organization, including Leagues at the local, state, and national levels. A member joining any of the 49 local Leagues in Ohio is automatically a member of the Ohio and the U.S. Leagues.

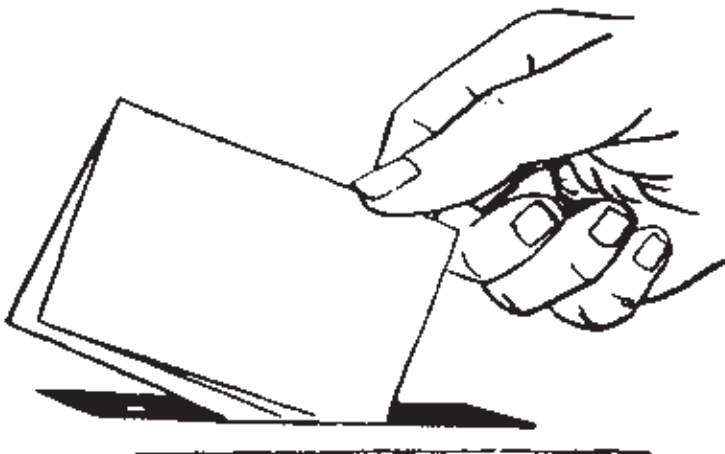
The Tiffin League was established in 1970 after a couple of women who had been members in other communities moved to town and realized there was no League. The first 2 years were spent learning about our community, the political process at the city, county, state and national levels.

As a citizen education organization, the League registers voters, provides unbiased information on candidates and issues, sponsors debates and candidates' nights, and produces informational publications on critical public policy issues. Educational publications published by the League are on such topics as Ohio government, Ohio government finances, writing your government representatives, Ohio's open meetings law, and education finance in the state.

As a multi-issue organization, there is a wide variety of critical areas in which the League concentrates its efforts through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters takes political action on issues on which member agreement has been reached. The Ohio League currently has positions on the Ohio constitution, apportionment/districting, state government finances, children's services, primary and secondary, education, juvenile justice, and natural resources.

## NONPARTISANSHIP:

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan - it neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. The League may take political action on issues on which member agreement has been reached. Members, as individuals, are encouraged to participate fully in the political process.



**VOTE**

## **Did You Find This Voter's Guide Useful?**

The League of Women Voters of the Tiffin Area spend over \$1,000 to publish and distribute this Voter's Guide. Such coverage of future elections can only happen with the assistance of interested citizens. Your contribution to the League of Women Voters is greatly appreciated. Please send contribution to:

**League of Women Voters of the Tiffin Area  
P.O. Box 174, Tiffin, OH 44883**

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our community.

Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With more than 88 years of experience and 850 local and state affiliates in all 50 states, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

For More Information Contact:  
League of Women Voters of the Tiffin Area  
P.O. Box 174  
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

[www.tiffinohio.com/lwv](http://www.tiffinohio.com/lwv)  
email to: [lwv@tiffinohio.com](mailto:lwv@tiffinohio.com)

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