



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020
POLLS OPEN FROM 6:30 A.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Dear Voters,

The League of Women Voters of Geauga (LWVG) believes voters drive democracy. Our voters' guides and candidate forums provide accurate, non-partisan information about candidates and issues we all care about. We believe an informed electorate contributes to a more vibrant and engaged community.

This voter guide includes a selection of candidate responses and brief descriptions of local issues. Readers are encouraged to view a more complete profile of candidates and issues by visiting www.vote411.org and judicial-votescount.org.

Candidates reply directly to online questionnaires and are solely responsible for the content, grammar and accuracy of the material presented here. Responses are reproduced as submitted in their entirety, with two exceptions. First, due to space limitations, some judicial candidate responses may be truncated. When this occurs a comment is added directing the reader to the complete response. Second, links within a candidate's original response have been omitted.

Chagrin Valley Times and Geauga Times Courier have published all material as submitted by the candidates to LWVG and therefore are not responsible for the accuracy, content or grammar of the candidates' responses.

Decisions about the content presented are made by LWVG. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness of the material presented. No part of this guide may be reproduced or altered without the written consent of LWVG.

We greatly value the continued support of the Chagrin Valley Times, which has produced and distributed our guide for many years as a public service to the community. It is fitting that in 2020, as the League celebrates 100 years of engaging citizens with their government, that we welcome the Geauga Maple Leaf as an additional distributor of our voters' guide.

This collaboration expands our reach throughout Geauga County and reflects our partners' shared commitment to providing the accurate, timely, and unbiased information needed for informed participation in our democracy. Voters, we place this guide into your capable hands.

Shelly Lewis, President

League of Women Voters of Geauga

The League of Women Voters of Geauga is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose individual candidates or parties. Learn more about the LWVG at www.lwvgeauga.org.

General Election Candidates 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RACES

14TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

David Joyce - Republican

Current Occupation: U.S. Congressman

Education: University of Dayton (BS,JD)

Training/Experience: Public Defender, Cuyahoga County (1983-1984) Public Defender, Geauga County (1984-1988) Prosecutor, Geauga County (1989-2012)

Email: info@joyceforcongress.com

Website: <http://joyceforcongress.com>

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

Here in Ohio, our election professionals have worked hard to ensure you can safely cast your ballot this November, whether you choose to do so by mail or in person.

Voters who don't want to risk their health amid the ongoing pandemic by voting in person still have the right to participate in our nation's democratic process and must have the option to do so. To ensure the Postal Service has the resources they need to deliver those ballots, I recently voted with my colleagues across the aisle to provide the Postal Service with \$25 billion in additional funding. Ohioans who plan to cast their ballot by mail should have full confidence that their vote will be counted.

Similarly, voters who wish to cast their ballot in person must be able to do so safely. Our board of elections are working to establish the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of those who vote in-person as well as those working the polls.

Last month, I was proud to work with a Lake County manufacturer, RB Sigma, and the Secretary of State's office to create a partnership that will provide nearly half a million surgical masks for poll workers and voters in all 88 counties on election day. RB Sigma was able to retool their machinery to produce PPE thanks to a \$500,000 grant funded by the CARES Act. I'm proud to support manufacturers like RB Sigma that have worked around the clock to produce and deliver essential PPE across Ohio, ensuring that voters who choose to vote on election day are safe.

How would you address immigration policy?

I have long worked across the aisle to address the problems we're currently facing due to our broken immigration system and am frustrated that Congress has failed to act to end the crisis at our southern border. America is the land of opportunity. That's why fixing our broken immigration system should not be a red or blue issue. It protects both Americans and those who want to come here for a better life.

Congress needs to provide the tools our border patrol agents need to do their jobs safely, ensure the security of our nation and end the broken cycle that has led to the humanitarian crisis at our border. Whether it's women and children being abused or trafficked on their way to our country, the separation of those individuals once they get here, the level of drugs flowing across our southern border that contribute to thousands of American deaths each year, or those impacted by crimes committed by individuals who would've never been allowed into our country had they gone through legal channels, it is very clear that

there is too much suffering going on.

Partisan politics have prevented progress on this issue for decades, but the reality is that perpetuating the security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border can no longer be an option. As someone who has voted both to provide DACA recipients with legal certainty and strengthen our border security, I firmly believe we cannot continue to shy away from compromise when it comes to fixing our broken immigration system.

Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land?

Having lived my entire life here in Northeast Ohio, I know how valuable our natural resources - like Lake Erie - are. In Congress, I'm proud to help lead the bipartisan effort to protect and preserve the Great Lakes. I'm known in Washington as "the Great Lakes Guy" for all the work I do to combat invasive species, restore habitats, reduce harmful algal blooms and prevent pollution in the Great Lakes region. These lakes supply 90% of our nation's surface water, are home to 3,500 species of plants and animals, create \$62 billion in wages each year and support 1.5 million jobs. They're a national treasure and must be preserved for future generations to come.

In addition to my work to restore the Great Lakes, I've introduced a number of bipartisan conservation and environmental bills, including the RECYCLE Act with Rep. Dean Phillips and a bill to extend and increase funding for the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area with Rep. Tim Ryan. That's not to mention the countless other pieces of legislation I've cosponsored such as the Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act and the Trillion Trees Act. We must continue to be good stewards of our environment and I will continue to work across the aisle to ensure legislation coming out of Congress helps us accomplish that.

What legislation, if any, would you suggest to address gun safety?

As a member of the initial prosecuting team for the Chardon High School shooting in 2012, I have seen first-hand the impact that acts of senseless violence have on our communities. That's why I have reached across the aisle and offered to work with my Democratic colleagues to address this critical issue in a non-partisan way.

In addition to consistently voting to protect and strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), I voted to increase the accuracy of background checks and penalize agencies that fail to report required information to NICS. I have also supported numerous pieces of legislation that address the root cause of these tragedies, such as the Mass Violence Protection Act of 2019. This legislation tackles gun violence by improving information sharing among law enforcement agencies and cracking down on illegal firearm possession.

Other legislation I've cosponsored includes the Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016, the STOP School Violence Act, the Securing our Schools Act, and the Safe Schools Improvement Act. Last Congress, I sent a letter to the Department of Justice in support of Ohio's application for funding under the STOP School Violence Act to help bring threat assessments and training programs to all Ohio schools.

As the only member of Congress to have prosecuted a school shooter, I remain committed to finding commonsense solutions to reduce gun violence and directly improve the safety of our communities.

Hillary O'Connor Mueri - Democratic

Current Occupation: Attorney

Education: J.D., University of San Diego School

of Law, 2010 B.S. Aviation Engineering, The Ohio State University, 1999

Campaign Email: info@hillaryoconnormueri.com

Website: <http://HillaryOConnorMueri.com>

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

The CDC spells out clear recommendations for holding safer elections in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The risk for infection is highest when circumstances force larger crowds to congregate indoors for longer wait times. Lower risk scenarios include having a wide variety of voting options, longer voting periods (more days and/or more hours), and other means of reducing the number of voters congregating indoors. Polling locations should be set up to maximize adherence to CDC recommendations, including mask use, social distancing, and hygiene. Further, we should invest alternatives to in-person voting, including extended absentee voting and the placement of ballot deposit boxes, placed in an equitable manner based on population and travel time from population centers.

The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) Act combined with 2002's HAVA (Help America Vote Act) provide over \$825M in available funding; however, most estimates place the cost of a safe, secure election closer to \$2B and the shortfall ought to be covered by Congress via a further stimulus package. Additionally, the Postal Service must be fully funded as part of our election infrastructure. The right to vote is one of Americans' most basic Constitutional rights and Congress has a sworn obligation to ensure all citizens have the ability to safely cast their ballots.

How would you address immigration policy?

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...

The United States is a nation of immigrants, creating not just our identity, but also a necessary component of our economic success.

Our system is undeniably broken with arcane rules, years-long backlogs, and no identifiable 'line' amongst numerous problems. Current toxic discourse has led to the US shirking its duty under international law to care for refugees, locking children in cages, separating families, removing people from the only home they've ever known, and even deporting military veterans.

Perhaps it is not pragmatic to conceive of rebuilding the system from the ground-up, but it is obvious that wholesale reform is necessary.

The most immediate reform necessary is a return to the rule of law. Due process in immigration enforcement. Adherence to international treaties. A return to decency and fair play and rejection of unnecessarily cruel and punitive enforcement actions. Our focus and investment should be in combatting the flow of illegal drugs, weapons, and human trafficking.

Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land?

If we fail to act soon, climate change will damage our economy and leave a difficult and uncertain future for future generations. Climate change is hurting our community in important ways including damage to agriculture, health, and damage to Lake Erie that can't be fixed with a few dollars of cleanup efforts.

Further, I believe our military leaders when they tell us that climate change is a national security threat. For example, many naval bases are highly susceptible to sea level rise. Further, climate change

General Election Candidates 2020

will exacerbate conflicts around the world and may lead to mass migrations of people escaping the ensuing conflict, drought, and famine.

As Americans, we have the ability to face and overcome any challenge, and climate change requires our unique American ingenuity, spirit, and can-do attitude. What's more, we've had historic successes using policy—in cooperation with business and markets—to solve major environmental issues. Despite dire warnings that solving these problems would harm the economy, the economy grew as the solutions were implemented. For example, our heavily polluted rivers, dramatized by the Cuyahoga River fire in Cleveland in 1969, were cleaned up through industry's innovation and federal legislation (Clean Water Act).

Taking on this challenge can actually benefit us. Environment vs. economy is a false choice—the clean energy economy creates jobs in green infrastructure that can't be shipped overseas.

What legislation, if any, would you suggest to address gun safety?

As a combat veteran I will unequivocally say that weapons of war do not belong on our streets. This does not translate to 'anti-gun;' firearms are necessary tools and belong in the hands of trained law enforcement personnel and hunters amongst others. We can prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals through common-sense regulation which respect the 2nd Amendment and are in keeping with historical precedent.

Priority one is universal background checks. Background checks have the support of over 85% of Americans. They work and have prevented over 3.5 million sales to people who are prohibited from owning guns, such as felons, abusers, and fugitives. Simply put, background checks help keep weapons out of the hands of criminals making our streets safer for us, our children, and law enforcement. Universal checks close the loopholes in the system. Over 30 states—including Ohio—do not require a check on unlicensed sales.

We must reinstate the 1994 prohibition on assault weapons and high capacity magazines and institute a voluntary buyback of those in circulation. This prohibition made our streets safer and is consistent with historical regulations dating back to our nation's earliest days.

Finally, the gun industry's immunity to most civil lawsuits, established by PLCAA, must be revoked so they reap the costs of selling their products, not just the profits.

STATEHOUSE RACES

OHIO SENATOR 18TH DISTRICT

Jerry Cirino - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

Betsy Rader - Democratic

Current Occupation: Attorney

Education: The Ohio State University B.A. 1982 Yale Law School J.D. 1986 George Washington University grad. cert. Healthcare Compliance 2014

Training & Experience: Employment Attorney, guardian ad litem for abused children, Betsy Rader Law; ORISE Fellow, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Senior Counsel, Cleveland Clinic; Sr. VP, LOCUM Medical Group; Director CASA for KIDS of Geauga County; Attorney, Squire Sanders

Website: <http://www.betsyrader4ohio.com>

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

Robust voter education about voting options is key during a crisis. Some changes that should have been implemented in Ohio during this crisis are (1) the ability to request an absentee ballot online instead of limiting requests to a paper application that is mailed in, and (2) increasing the number of ballot drop box locations rather than only allowing a drop box at a single Board of Elections location for each county. Including postage on the return envelope for requested absentee ballots would also facilitate voting. Some other states only permit absentee voting if the voter has an "excuse," and those states should adopt Ohio's system of "no

excuse" absentee voting. Other types of crises could involve the internet or electrical systems, and returning to the universal use of hand-marked paper ballots could help ameliorate those problems.

What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

Fair districts and fair elections are essential to our democracy. A three-judge federal panel ruled last year that Ohio's current congressional districts are unconstitutionally gerrymandered, depriving us of our free speech and voting rights. But the Supreme Court subsequently ruled that it was up to the political process rather than the courts to address gerrymandering. Fortunately, new Ohio rules govern how maps are to be redrawn in 2021 and require far more transparency and bipartisanship than when districts were last drawn. As a state senator I will have the opportunity to vote on the new district maps even if I am a member of the minority party, and I will diligently review such maps for fairness. I will be a strong voice for compliance with the new laws and for fair districts within the legislature and in all public forums. Members of all political parties benefit from fair districts where politicians are accountable to voters and extremism is not rewarded.

Where do you stand on gun safety measures?

My dad was a game warden with the Ohio Division of Wildlife; I grew up hunting with him and guns were a regular part of our lives. I recognize Second Amendment rights and I support common sense gun safety measures such as universal background checks that keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. I also support Red Flag Laws that allow courts with due process to keep guns out of the hands

of people who are a danger to themselves or others, like domestic violence perpetrators. I am the endorsed candidate of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police, and I support measures that protect our police such as disclosure of concealed weapons during a traffic stop or other law enforcement purpose.

Where do you stand on women's reproductive rights and health?

When I was a married law student without health insurance, I was able to receive affordable routine women's healthcare at Planned Parenthood and those services included birth control that allowed me to plan when I would start our family. I support healthcare services such as Planned Parenthood and believe women should be able to access affordable healthcare and to make their own healthcare decisions with their doctors without interference by the government. This right to make medical decisions extends to their reproductive rights, subject to the limits set forth by the United States Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade. This decision has been established law in this country for almost 50 years and should not be overturned.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 76TH DISTRICT

Diane V. Grendell - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

Garrett Westhoven - Democratic

Current Occupation: Web Software Engineer

Education: BS Mathematics University of Notre Dame

Training & Experience: 15 years of web development experience.

Campaign Email: contact@garrettwesthoven.com

Website: <http://garrettwesthoven.com>

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

I would make it possible to submit an absentee ballot application online and spread drop boxes throughout all counties so we would not be forced to rely on the postal service.

How would you work to implement uniform internet access throughout your district for those who work and learn at home?

We need to create a partnership with broadband providers to build out our infrastructure, which will help those in need during this pandemic, and help Ohio compete for jobs and industry once the pandemic ends.

Where do you stand on gun safety measures?

We need to implement sensible gun control solution as soon as possible. Guns were invented to kill people. While our constitution does permit us to bear arms, many seem to disregard the "well regulated" portion of the 2nd amendment. Creating a structure similar to what we have with motor vehicles, where every firearm is registered, and gun owners are required to have a license which also requires the passing of a test. How many people need to die in a school, or outside a bar, or at a concert for gun owners to accept some inconvenience.

Where do you stand on women's reproductive rights and health?

We need to ensure that women's reproductive healthcare is protected so that her health needs are not determined by politicians but by she and her doctor.

OHIO SENATOR 32ND DISTRICT

Sandra O'Brien - Republican

Education: Masters in Administration, Edinboro University, PA; Bachelors in Elementary Education, Bowling Green State University, OH

Training and Experience Twelve years as elected Ashtabula County Auditor; Masters in Administration, Educator

Website: sandy@sandyforsenate.com

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

In twenty years of political activity including elected office, I have never come across a single instance of anyone being denied the right to vote. The current hysteria of voting suppression is simply a political ploy that has been hatched for political gain.

Where do you stand on gun safety issues?

As a concealed carry license holder, I have experienced firsthand the training required to obtain one's license. This training for self-protection is thorough, practical and has proven to be an effective method of training one for gun safety.

Sean O'Brien - Democratic

Education: Edinboro University Akron School of Law

Training and Experience 3 Terms in the House and 1 term in the Senate

Website <http://seanobrienforohio.com>

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

Prepaid postage for return ballots. Multiple drop boxes per county. Same day voter registration

Where do you stand on gun safety issues?

As a proud gun owner and avid hunter, I believe we need common sense legislation that requires proper training all gun owners.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 99TH DISTRICT

Kyle Bruckman - Write-in

Current Occupation: Small Business Owner

Education: Tooling University (Online Vocational) Motorcycle Mechanics Institute, A.C.J.V.S. (Precision Machining) Edgewood Sr. High School

Training & Experience: Owner: City Taxi Cab & Transfer Co. Owner: Black Eagle Moving Co. Owner: Eighty-Six Engineering, Former Union President: I.L.A. Local 1913 (N.S. Ashtabula Coal Pier) Aerospace Machinist: Component Repair Technologies, Machinist/Fabricator: Fenton Mfg.

Campaign Email: kyle@ashtabulacitycab.com

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

In Ohio we have the option of in person voting, and by request, mail-in absentee voting. In March of this year, our in person voting option was taken from us late the night before the primary election by a "non-elected" health official. This was done after a judge denied the request backed by Governor Dewine to postpone the election. The crisis in this event: government overreach, as well as, the violation of the separation of powers as outlined in the Constitution. The Health Department should not have the authority to strip or alter our voting rights, nor should the governor have the authority

to disregard the ruling of a judge. I would pass legislation to make sure they never have that authority again. When in the event of an actual crisis during an election, emergency session of legislation should determine the correct path to take.

How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?

The Constitution grants the federal Government no authority over education, so the 10th amendment applies, giving that power to the state and to the people. Ohio should nullify the "No Child Left Behind Act", and all regulations imposed by the Federal Government's Department of Education. Parents should also have the right to provide for the education of their children in the manner they deem best, including home, private, or religious. Equitable tax relief should also be provided for families whose children do not attend public schools.

Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.

It is our responsibility to be prudent, productive and efficient stewards of our natural resources. This requires a proper and continuing dynamic balance between development and conservation, between use and preservation. With that, we must wholeheartedly support realistic efforts to preserve the environment, and reduce pollution. I however dispute the argument of the perceived threat of "man-made" climate change.

Under what circumstances is it appropriate for the state to restrain or check local government?

The closer civil government is to the people, the more responsible, responsive and accountable it is likely to be. Ohio's "Home Rule Law" recognizes this ideology; therefore, the only time the state should check or restrain local government, is in the events that people's unalienable rights are being infringed, general law is being broken, or the constitution is being violated by the local government. Being relevant to current events, I must also emphasize that the Governor's, nor the Health Directors "orders" are law.

Richard Dana - Democratic

Current Occupation: Attorney and Professor

Campaign Email: danaforohio@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Science, with University Honors, The Ohio State University. Juris Doctor, Case Western Reserve University.

Training & Experience: Attorney and former acting Judge, local historian, and adjunct Professor at Kent State University at Ashtabula. Board Membership includes Past President of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and current Board Chair at UH Geneva and Conneaut Medical Centers.

Campaign Email: danaforohio@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.danaforohio.com>

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

Throughout our Nation's History, no one was ever "given" the right to Vote. It had to be fought for and won. One of my Mentors, Judge Mary Cacioppo, was denied the right to vote when she married and kept her maiden name. Although the Board of Elections knew Judge Cacioppo, they attempted to deny her right based on "procedure," and she had to take the matter to Court to have her voice and her vote heard. That, unfortunately, was not that long ago, and Voter Suppression continues to this day.

Ohio's system for voting by mail, or through absentee ballot, is safe and secure. All registered voters should be mailed an absentee ballot request, and granted the right to vote on either election day or via absentee ballot. Fees for mailing should be waived by the government by those exercising their right to Vote. If someone tries to "game" the system, and vote on multiple occasions, they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?

I am seeking the 99th Ohio House District seat currently held by Dr. John Patterson. For the past 7+ years, John has attempted to fix the State's school funding system. I support the bi-partisan effort in the Cupp-Patterson Bill, H.B. 305, that seeks to fund schools based on resources that includes, but is not limited to local property taxes. The current reliance on property taxes to fund basic services and our schools causes a hardship to our more rural communities, including our Farmers, that is unsustainable and that

VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, October 1 at 7 p.m., held via Zoom

League of Women Voters of Geauga has invited candidates from the following races to participate in the forum:

- US Congressional Representative 14th District
- State Senator 18th District
- State Representative 76th District
- State Senator 32nd District
- State Representative 99th District
- Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals (2/9/2021)
- Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals (2/10/2021)

Submit candidate questions and register at www.lwvgeauga.org.

The League of Women Voters of Geauga County does not support or oppose any candidate or political party



General Election Candidates 2020

severely limits the quality of education and services that we can provide our Children and our Communities.

Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.

I have seen the enemy, and it is us. We are far too reliant on single use plastics; and this comes from a person who grew up at a time when we were going to embrace recycling and the metric system. What happened? The 99th House District includes communities that are being devastated by climate change. Land that was receding into Lake Erie at a rate of a feet each year, is now vanishing away in large sections - gone forever. Aside from making changes, ourselves, at an individual level, we need the resources of the State, Federal, and International Community to seek real change. Members of our Community have lost their homes, or remain at risk of losing their homes to on-going erosion. Moreover, our local Communities that depend on the lake for tourism are in danger, placing our area at risk for future economic growth.

Under what circumstances is it appropriate for the state to restrain or check local government?

The United States Constitution sets the minimal rights that we hold as Citizens of this great Nation. The individual States can expand those Rights not inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution. For instance, recognizing the importance of education in our Society, Ohio's Constitution requires the "thorough and efficient" funding of Public Education by the State of Ohio.

The Citizens of Ohio voted for "Home Rule," permitting certain levels of local government to enact ordinances not inconsistent with the U.S. or the Ohio Constitutions. Often, State and Federal Governments control the "purse strings," causing limitations in the operation of local government. I'm not suggesting that this is a correct use of Federal or State Power, but the "Home Rule" provisions enacted in the 1912 Ohio Constitution have decreased as restrictions are placed on local government. In my opinion, the Supreme Court of Ohio must re-visit the issue on the application of Ohio's Home Rule Provisions.

Sarah Fowler-Arthur - Republican

Current Occupation: Entrepreneur and Small Business Owner

Education: Fowler Christian Agriculture&Business Academy, homeschool graduate-2007; Teaching English as a Second Language(TESL)Min.Cert-2006

Training & Experience: Fowler Enterprises, Inc - Director of Marketing, Executive Office Assistant 2005-2020; Badger Run Berries, LLC - Entrepreneurial Owner/Operator 2018-2020; Piano Teacher (50+students) 2015-2020; Sarah's Eggs Entrepreneurial Owner/Operator 1999-2012; OH State BdEd 2013-20

Campaign Email: Sarah@ElectSarahFowler.com

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

As a long time voting location manager for Ashtabula County polls, I can say first hand that the challenges of voting during this crisis are unprecedented. I think that it is vital to offer voters the opportunity to vote in person, while still allowing options such as absentee ballots and early voting. It is important that we maintain local control of the elections, allowing each county board of elections to continue to tailor their operations and emergency response plans (including personal protection equipment and sanitation) to their county's needs in cooperation with the local health department. Ohio has one of the most efficient and state-of-the-art voting systems that allows all eligible voters, and only eligible voters, a wide variety of safe and secure options so they can make their voice heard in every election.

How would you implement a constitutionally compliant school funding system?

Bob Cupp, former Ohio Supreme Court Justice and joint-sponsor of the Patterson-Cupp School Funding Bill (HB 305), testified to the Ohio State Board of Education in 2019 that Ohio's school funding system has undergone several fundamental changes since the Ohio Supreme Court ruled on its constitutionality which means that the ruling is no longer applicable.

The ongoing policy discussion revolves around decisions of how local tax monies are raised and spent, balancing state funding with regulatory oversight and accountability measures, and how

to ensure that all students have access to quality education. My eight years on the State Board of Education have provided me with an understanding of and appreciation for the complexities of balancing local control with additional state tax dollars.

Additionally, the state needs to use accurate assessments that reflect the true academic knowledge of students, make state report cards clear and understandable, and respect parents' education choices.

Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air, and land? Include how you would address climate change.

Having grown up in agriculture, I know firsthand the importance of maintaining our soil and water resources and their unique ecology's. Good stewardship includes respect for our natural resources and the economy that is the engine powering those resources. In our efforts to preserve and restore a healthier air and water supply, we need to consider the personal and commercial freedoms which often contribute to new technologies advancing our knowledge, usage and conservation of these resources. I am pleased to have received the "2020 Friend of Agriculture" designation from the Ohio Farm Bureau (OFBF-AGGPAC) and have been endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB-PAC), which have been forward thinking organizations in promoting balance and good stewardship of these important resources.

Under what circumstances is it appropriate for the state to restrain or check local government?

The purpose of government at the local, state, and federal levels is to protect individual rights and ensure equal application of the law. Just as we have three coequal branches in our system of government, the local, state and federal jurisdictions serve as checks and balances on each other to best address the needs of the citizens.

My general attitude is "subsidiary," the principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level. The test for that should error on the side of local control, requiring that a task or oversight is shown to be demonstrably better in the hands of that central authority. The state and federal jurisdictions have a role but caution should be exercised to avoid over regulation and excessive unfunded mandates. I have been endorsed by the Ohio Citizens PAC, Ohio Republican Party, Ashtabula Republican Party, and Geauga Republican Party.

JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT (FTC 1/1/2021)

Sharon L. Kennedy

Candidate did not participate.

John O'Donnell

Email: judgejohnpodonnellforjustice@gmail.com

Website: odonnellforjustice.com

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

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

Work Experience:

Legal work experience: Civil trial attorney 1993-2002 and 2005-2007; Judge, 2002-2005 and 2007-present.

Family: Married with five children

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

Endorsements: The Cleveland Plain Dealer, <https://www.cleveland.com/opinion/2020/09/john-p-odonnell-for-ohio-supreme-court.html>

Bar Association Ratings: All 2020: Recommended, Ohio State Bar Association; Excellent, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Bar Association; Excellent, Asian American Bar Association of Ohio; Excellent, Cuyahoga Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; Good, Norman S. Minor Bar Association

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

I have been a judge for over 16 years. I have

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

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

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

JUSTICE OF THE OHIO SUPREME COURT (FTC 1/2/2021)

Jennifer Brunner

Email: judgejenniferbrunner@gmail.com

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

Occupation: Judge, Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals

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

Work Experience: Court of Appeals Judge since 2014; 17 years private law practice, during period of 1987 through 2014 when not in elected public service (founded what was initially home-based law firm in 1988 with 3 small children at home); USAID Rule of Law Expert for 4 engagements in Republic of Serbia on Judicial Reform and Government Accountability (anti-corruption) and 1 engagement in Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, all during period of 2012-2015; International Election Observer in Arab Republic of Egypt for 3 engagements in 2014-2015; Secretary of State of Ohio 2007-2011 (first female elected); Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge 2000-2005; Ohio Secretary of State's office deputy director and legal counsel 1983-1987; Ohio Senate legislative aide and committee secretary 1978-1981, (see complete response at www.judicialvotes.org).

Family: Married since 1978 to attorney Rick L. Brunner from Columbiana County, Ohio, 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren with another on the way; 2 rescue dogs

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

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

Bar Association Ratings: 2002 Highly Recommended

2014 Highly Recommended

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

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

- Serve as one of eight judges in jurisdiction of 1.2 million people reviewing cases filed as of right from lower courts at county and municipal level (civil and felony and misdemeanor cases, probate, family law and administrative law), state court of claims cases, administrative law decisions and holding original jurisdiction in government-related cases.

- Participate in three-judge panels that hear oral arguments on cases fully briefed and prepared for review.

- Manage team of staff attorneys and paralegal in review of records and drafting and review of

decisions.

- Confer with other appellate judges on cases presented for oral argument and written decisions following oral arguments.

- Sit as visiting judge on the Ohio Supreme Court and in other courts of appeals. (see complete response at www.judicialvotescount.org).

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

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

I chose to run for the Ohio Supreme Court for three reasons: First, I want to be a part of a court that ensures that the first decision interpreting the state constitution's new provisions for fair districts for Congress and the Ohio General Assembly, when challenged — and they will be — is fair and according to state constitutional requirements. As Secretary of State, my office sponsored a public contest to draw districts to show we could end gerrymandering. We used a formula that served as a basis for developing the state constitution's formula for fair districts. (see complete response at www.judicialvotescount.org).

Judi French

Email: JusticeJudiFrench@gmail.com

Website: <http://JusticeJudiFrench.com>; <http://FriendsofFrench.com>

Occupation: Justice, Ohio Supreme Court

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

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

Family: Married with two children and two grandchildren

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

Endorsements: Ohio Fraternal Order of Police; Ohio Chamber of Commerce PAC; Ohio Farm Bureau AGGPAC; NFIB Ohio; Affiliated Construction Trades Ohio (ACT Ohio); Ohio State Medical Association PAC

Bar Association Ratings: 2020: "Highly Recommended" <https://www.ohioabar.org/about-us/media-center/osba-news/2020news/ohio-state-bar-association-commission-on-judicial-candidates-announces-ohio-supreme-court-candidate-ratings-for-the-2020-election/>; 2014 "Highly Recommended" by the Ohio State Bar Association Commission on Judicial Candidates; 2010 "Highly Recommended" by the Columbus Bar Association Judicial Committee http://www.cbalaw.org/cba_prod/Main/Resources/Public/Judicial-Elections.aspx

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

- Justice, Ohio Supreme Court 2013 – present
- Appointed January 2013; elected November 2014.

- Serve on seven-member court with statewide jurisdiction over all legal matters, including discretionary and non-discretionary appeals, original actions, death-penalty appeals, and disciplinary matters.

- Serve as frequent presenter before high school, college, law school, legal professional, and general public audiences on matters of access to justice, civic education, law, and campaign policy.

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

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

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

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

KEY DATES AND HOURS FOR THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Key Dates for the 2020 General Election

10/05 Voter Registration Deadline (by 9 p.m.)

10/06 Absentee/Early in-office voting begins; BOE begins mailing requested absentee ballots to voters.

11/02 Postmark deadline for absentee/mail-in voting ballots

11/03 Election Day! Polls Open 6:30 a.m.- 7:30p.m. Drop off absentee ballots at your Board of Elections

Debates and Forums

09/29 at 9 p.m. - 1st Presidential Debate

10/01 at 7 p.m. - LWVG Virtual Candidate Forum

10/07 at 9 p.m. - Vice-presidential Debate

10/09 time TBD - Ohio Supreme Court Candidate Forum

10/15 at 9 p.m. - 2nd Presidential Debate

10/22 at 9 p.m. - 3rd Presidential Debate

Ohio In-Person Early Voting Hours

10/06 - 10/16 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

10/19 - 10/23 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

10/24 (SAT) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10/25 (SUN) 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

10/26 - 10/30 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

10/31 (SAT) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

11/01 (SUN) 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

General Election Candidates 2020

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

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

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

OHIO 11TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS (FTC 2/9/2021)

Timothy P. Cannon

Website: www.reelectjudgescannon.com

Occupation: Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals
Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law 1980

Work Experience: 27 years as an attorney, 13th year on the 11th District Court of Appeals

Family: Married 40 years, 2 children and 2 grandchildren

Affiliations: Ohio Bar Assn., Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Trumbull and Portage County Bar Assns
Endorsements: 2014 Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2014 Youngstown Vindicator

Bar Association Ratings: 2020 Trumbull County Bar Assn "Preferred Candidate". 2014 Lake County Bar Assn "Highly Recommended" (100% affirmative vote!) 2014 Portage County Bar Assn "Highly Recommended"

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

Judge, 11th District Court of Appeal, August 2007 to present. Visiting Justice, Ohio Supreme Court, 4 occasions since 2009. Administrative and Presiding Judge 5 different years. Currently, Presiding Judge 11th District Court of Appeals.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

I have been in this seat since August of 2007. I believe I become a better judge with each year that goes by. I have always had a love for the law. My father was an attorney for almost 50 years. We practiced law together for over 20 years. I understand the importance of the work we do, and the need for judges to resolve cases based on the law, and not some philosophical ideal of what we may individually believe.

I believe my willingness to lecture on topics related to our work, and the commitment to resolve cases in an efficient manner help in the quality of service we provide to litigants. I've been appointed to serve by assignment on the Ohio Supreme Court by three different Chief Justices. I believe my experience of serving in that capacity has helped my understanding of what should be expected of the courts of appeals.

Matt Lynch

Candidate did not participate.

JUDGE, ELEVENTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS (FTC 2/10/2021)

Sarah Thomas Kovoov

Email: electkovoovjudge@gmail.com

Website: http://www.votekovoov.com

Occupation: Attorney

Education: J.D. from University of Akron School of Law and B.A. from University of Rochester

Work Experience: Former Trumbull County Assistant Prosecutor 1998-2002, Private Practice 2002-Present

Family: 3 adult children, 3 young grandchildren and elderly widowed mother

Affiliations: Religious: Christian. Member of the Ohio State Bar Assn. and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Current President of the Trumbull County Republican Women's Club, Former

President of the Rotary Club of Howland Twp.

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

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

I am running for the 11th District Court of Appeals because I have called Northeast Ohio my home for over 30 years. It is the area where I have practiced law and raised a family. During this time, I have advocated in court for the State and for my clients, both retained and appointed. Through this lifetime of experience, I have had the opportunity to see the good that a Judge can do, both in the courtroom and as a member of the community. When in the courtroom, I will ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to have their appeal heard in a fair and unbiased setting, influenced only by the letter of the law and the evidence presented. As a member of the community, Judges have the opportunity to engage with the public as non-partisan advocates for understanding not only the State Constitution but the American Legal System as a whole. As an immigrant, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to grow up with the protections afforded by the American Legal System and this experience lead me to pursue a career dedicated to these practices and traditions.

Cynthia Westcott Rice

Email: judgecynthiarice@gmail.com

Website: judgecynthiarice.com

Occupation: Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals
Education: J.D.- University of Akron School of Law; B.S.- Purdue University, Krannert School of Management

Work Experience: Judge, Eleventh District Court of Appeals, 2003 – Present; Presiding/Administrative Judge, 2007 & 2016; Administrative Judge, 2020; Preside over appellate cases in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull Counties. Ohio Judicial Conference Executive Committee, 2011 – present; (see complete response at www.judicialvotescount.org).

Affiliations: Member Ohio State Bar Association, Ashtabula County Bar Association, Lake County Bar Association, Geauga County Bar Association, Portage County Bar Association, and Trumbull

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

Judge, Eleventh District Court of Appeals, 2003 – Present; Presiding/Administrative Judge, 2007, 2016 & 2017; Administrative Judge, 2020; Preside over appellate cases in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull Counties. Authored over 1,500 appellate decisions and decided over 4,000 appeals.

Ohio Judicial Conference – Executive Committee, 2011 – present; Criminal Law & Procedure Committee co-chair, 2011 – present; Appellate Law & Procedure Committee, 2013 – present; Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Court Security, 2013 – present

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

I have served the 11th District as a judge for the past 18 years. I believe my legal experience is an asset to the court. The majority of my legal practice prior to taking the bench was as a state and federal prosecutor. Approximately half of our appellate cases are criminal. Presently, none of the current judges have an extensive background in criminal law and procedure.

During my service on the appellate bench, I have been able to contribute insight into nuances of criminal procedure that have assisted our court in delivering sound, well-reasoned opinions. Having practiced as an Assistant United States Attorney, I am more familiar with differences between state and federal criminal laws. This enables me to better determine how U.S. Supreme Court decisions that address federal cases affect Ohio's criminal justice system. (See complete response at www.judicialvotescount.org)

GEAUGA COUNTY RACES

COUNTY COMMISSIONER (FTC 1/2/2021)

Timothy C. Lennon - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER (FTC 1/3/2021)

Ralph Spidalieri - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Jim Flaiz - Republican

Current Occupation: Prosecuting Attorney

Education: Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School; B.A., Ohio State University; J.D. cum laude, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Training & Experience: Council member in South Russell 7 years; Chair, Geauga County Budget Commission; member South Russell Planning Commission; Executive Committee Member and past president Geauga County Bar Association.

Campaign Email: electflaiz@gmail.com

CLERK OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Sheila M. Bevington - Republican

Current Occupation: Deputy Clerk

Education: High School graduate with continuing education from Kent State, Cleveland State and Lakeland Community College

Training & Experience: I am a Deputy Clerk in the Clerk of Courts of Common Pleas Legal Office with more than 6 years' experience. I am knowledgeable about the office requirements and procedures. I have attended various training seminars focusing on HR and the office of Clerk of Courts.

Campaign Email: fhgof2@gmail.com

SHERIFF

Scott A. Hildenbrand - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

COUNTY RECORDER.

Celesta Mullins - Republican

Current Occupation: Chief Deputy-Geauga County Recorder

Education: Associates Degree (Paralegal); Leadership Geauga Graduate; Excel/Accounting Classes CE - Ohio Recorder's Association

Training & Experience: 21+ years working for the Geauga County Recorder's Office; Geauga County Interim Recorder (2007); Former Title Examiner, Continental Title; Administrative Assistant, Siracki Realty

Campaign Email: celestamullins86@gmail.com

Website: http://celestamullins.com

COUNTY TREASURER

Chris Hitchcock - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

COUNTY ENGINEER

Joseph A. Cattell - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

CORONER

John Urbancic - Republican

Candidate did not participate.

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE/JUVENILE DIVISION

Tim Grendell - Republican

Current Occupation: Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Probate/Juvenile Division

Education: Master of Laws, University of Virginia; J.D., Case Western Reserve (top 10%); B.A., John Carroll University; St. Ignatius High School

Training & Experience: Captain, U.S. Army JAG Corps – Faculty U.S. Army JAG School, Special Detail, DOD – U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee; Partner at Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue and other firms; State Representative; State Senator; Judge

Campaign Email: timgrendell@yahoo.com

Website: http://judgetimgrendell.com

Election Issues

VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS

Issue 1 - Burton Village (1 Precinct)

Tax Levy - 3 mills - Streets, Roads and Bridges - Additional 5 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 2 - Burton Village (1 Precinct)

Tax Levy - 2.25 mills - Fire and EMS - Renewal 4 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 3 - Auburn Township (5 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 1 mill - Streets, Roads and Bridges - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 4 - Auburn Township (5 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 1.8 mills - Fire and EMS - Additional CPT - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 5 - Bainbridge Township (9 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 2 mills - Streets, Roads and Bridges - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 6 - Burton Township (3 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 1 mill - Fire and EMS - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 7 - Burton Township (3 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 3 mills - Streets, Roads and Bridges - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 8 - Chardon Township (4 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 2.5 mills - Fire and EMS - Renewal 3 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 9 - Chester Township (9 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 2.5 mills - Streets, Roads and Bridges - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 10 - Chester Township (9 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 0.5 mill - Police and EMS - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 11 - Hambden Township (4 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 1.5 mills - Fire and EMS - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 12 - Huntsburg Township (2 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 1.5 mills - Fire and EMS - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 13 - Montville Township (2 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 2.4 mills - Fire and EMS - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 14 - Montville Township (2 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 1.5 mills - Streets, Roads and Bridges - Additional - 5 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

Issue 15 - Munson Township (6 Precincts)

(6 Precincts) - Tax Levy - 1.95 mills - Fire and EMS - Replacement CPT - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 16 - Parkman Township (2 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 2 mills - Streets, Roads and Bridges - Renewal CPT - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 17 - Thompson Township (2 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 1.75 mills - Fire and EMS - Renewal 4 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022

Issue 18 - Troy Township (2 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 4.5 mills - Fire and EMS - Renewal 5 years - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

SCHOOLS

Issue 20 - Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools (7 Precincts)

Tax Levy - 3.85 mills - Current Expenses - Additional - CPT - commencing in 2020, first due 2021

COUNTY

Issue 19 - Geauga County (78 Precincts)

Job and Family Services - Tax Levy - 0.7 mill - Children Services - Renewal - 5 years - commencing in 2021, first due 2022



New LWV Members Welcome!

League of Women Voters of Geauga welcomes women, men and students 16 years and older. Members typically are active within their chosen political party but must be non-partisan when participating in League activities or work. Learn more about us at www.lwvgeauga.org



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VOTE 411

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www.boelections.co.geauga.oh.us



VOTE