

# VOTER GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION 2021

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS\*  
OF GEauga COUNTY



**CANDIDATE FORUMS**  
**KENSTON HIGH SCHOOL,**  
**SEP 27 AT 7PM**

**CARDINAL**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL,**  
**SEPT 29 AT 7PM**

**WEST GEAGA**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL,**  
**OCT 5 AT 7PM**

**CHARDON**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL,**  
**OCT 7 AT 7PM**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021**  
**POLLS OPEN FROM 6:30 A.M. – 7:30 P.M.**

## Dear Voters,

League of Women Voters Geauga (LWVG) believes voters drive democracy. Our voter 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.

Due to space limitations, this voter guide includes a selection of candidate responses and brief descriptions of local issues. Readers are encouraged to view the complete body of candidate responses and expanded issue descriptions by visiting the League's award winning online voter guide at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

Candidates reply directly to an online questionnaire and are solely responsible for the content, grammar and accuracy of the material presented. Responses are reproduced as submitted in their entirety.

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 was fitting that in 2020, as the League celebrated 100 years of engaging citizens with their government, that we welcomed the Geauga Maple Leaf as an additional distributor of our voter 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 Geauga*

*The League of Women Voters 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](http://www.lwvgeauga.org).*

## General Election Candidates 2021

### CHARDON CITY

#### MAYOR (CHOOSE 1)

##### • Christopher Grau

**Campaign Email:** [chrisgrau@lakeerievideo.com](mailto:chrisgrau@lakeerievideo.com)  
**Education:** Chardon High School Graduate, 1983 Kent State University Graduate, 1991

**Training & Experience:** City of Chardon Vice-Mayor City of Chardon Councilman City of Chardon Safety Committee Chairman Business Owner in Chardon 25+ Years City of Chardon Community Volunteer Serves on Chardon Planning Commission United States Air Force Veteran

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** As the Vice-Mayor and the Chairman of the Safety Committee, supporting our first responders serving in our police and fire departments remains a top priority. As our city continues to successfully grow through economic and residential development, maintaining appropriate staffing for those departments is critically important. Preserving Chardon heritage and listening and responding to the needs of our residents always remain priorities.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** As Mayor, I would work with all council members and city staff to expand our relationship with Chardon Local Schools. Encouraging students to better understand how local government works would benefit them in their academic studies and would ensure our future city leaders are better prepared for the future. City council always looks to expand notification of projects and opportunities to residents and we encourage residents to subscribe to the Notify Me tab found on our website - [chardon.cc](http://chardon.cc).

##### • Nancy McArthur

**Campaign Email:** [nmcarthur@windstream.net](mailto:nmcarthur@windstream.net)  
**Education:** B.A. in Communications and PR (minor in Business) from Cleveland State University. GPA 3.91, Graduated with honors

**Training & Experience:** 25+ years of supervisory and management in various industries including legal, finance, human resources, and government. 12 years on City Council - 2 years as Mayor, 6 as Vice Mayor, 7 on Planning Commission, Chair of Finance Committee, former Chair of Econ Development.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Smart economic development in Chardon is something I've focused on the past 12 years as a Councilman and Mayor, and it's still a top priority. In 2020 we finally decided to partner with Retail Strategies which is currently working with us as an economic development partner to identify potential businesses for Chardon. This will bring more jobs and income tax revenue into our city and our schools to help keep our taxes lower. Another priority is building a good working relationship with our County Commissioners. Even prior to being appointed a Planning Commission member 17 years ago, the City and the County had a difficult relationship. When I'm elected Mayor, I will forge a meaningful long-term working relationship with the Commissioners.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** When elected Mayor, I plan to continue to provide the high-quality level of services to our Chardon residents and businesses. Our police department and our dispatch services are extremely important as safety is our top priority. Other than the sheriff's office, our dispatch is the only other one in Geauga county. We assist and backup the sheriff's dispatch office and although it is costly, we plan to continue that service. I plan to hire more police officers as our budget allows. We also provide a School Resource Officer to Chardon schools which we have been funding since the Chardon shooting. As Chair of the Finance Committee, I review our expenditures every month and if we can afford to keep all our current services, we will.

#### COUNCIL (CHOOSE 3)

##### • Andrew K Blackley

**Campaign Email:** [lklkoforcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:lklkoforcouncil@gmail.com)  
**Education:** Master of Public Administration, University of Pittsburgh, PA; Bachelor of Arts, College of Wooster, OH  
**Training & Experience:** - 4 years Chardon City Council; - Over 21 years Chardon City/Village Manager; - Over 30-year municipal service career;

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** I consider the following to be the top priorities for the City of Chardon: 1) Keeping Chardon the safe, family-friendly community it is today; 2) Providing high-quality services, including road maintenance, snow removal and public safety; 3) Encouraging planned growth of remaining vacant areas; 4) Addressing the planned relocation of numerous County offices. The Council and administration should work together to continually examine the current level of city services, the cost of those services, and the ability of the City to continue those services in the face of future growth.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** I believe the City of Chardon currently provides outstanding services to its residents. Before looking at the expansion or reduction of any services, I believe we must first examine the City's capability to maintain current service levels.

##### • Daniel Meleski

**Campaign Email:** [dan.meleski@gmail.com](mailto:dan.meleski@gmail.com)  
**Education:** Malone College, B.S., Business Administration

**Training & Experience:** I believe Chardon residents will benefit from my business experience, knowledge and work ethic. I am committed to working hard so Chardon will continue to be a great place to live, work and raise a family. I have served 8 years as Councilman.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Maintaining the integrity and safety of Chardon: An area that requires constant vigilance is maintaining the strength and quality of our police and fire services. Maintaining Fiscal Accountability: As city council makes decisions on finances, we should not overextend our city's budget. We need to be fiscally conservative while exploring opportunities to empower small business to thrive within our community. A City Council that listens and serves its residents: I strongly believe that members of Chardon City Council are elected to serve. I will continue to bring new ideas and I am dedicated to the residents of the City.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Continue to improve the connectivity of the sidewalks. This offers safer pedestrian traffic and makes the city more walkable.

#### AQUILLA VILLAGE

#### COUNCIL (CHOOSE 3)

- Ron N Eging
- Julie Petrowski
- Elizabeth M Savel

#### BURTON VILLAGE

#### COUNCIL (CHOOSE 4)

- Thomas F Blair Sr
- Cory Brown

##### • C Caleb Ferroni

**Campaign Email:** [usm46@yahoo.com](mailto:usm46@yahoo.com)  
**Education:** Health care, emergency management, national management, professional firefighter.

**Training & Experience:** 17 years in the emergency management services. Full time firefighter paramedic. Paramedic instructor. Firefighter instructor.

##### • Bonnie Lou Richards

#### BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (CHOOSE 1)

- Nicholas J Rundo

#### MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE

#### COUNCIL (CHOOSE 4)

- Kaitlyn Arganti
- William Blue
- Scott Klein

##### • Richard L Seyer (Write-In)

**Campaign Email:** [mrhombre47@gmail.com](mailto:mrhombre47@gmail.com)  
**Education:** Graduate Cardinal High School Attended Kent State University Graduate Akron Barber College  
**Training & Experience:** I have over 30 years of service to my local government. I have been elected to the positions of Middlefield Village Councilman, Middlefield Village Mayor and Middlefield Township Trustee.

#### SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE

#### COUNCIL (CHOOSE 4)

##### • Christopher Bell

**Campaign Email:** [bell4southrussell@gmail.com](mailto:bell4southrussell@gmail.com)  
**Education:** Bachelor of Arts - University of Akron; Master of Arts in Public Relations - Kent State University

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** I believe the top priorities of South Russell are: 1. Finding solutions to the flooding issues that are damaging homes and causing safety issues on our roadways. 2. Continued responsible fiscal management of taxpayer dollars while also providing top-notch services. 3. Ensuring a well maintained, yet diverse, housing stock so both blue-collar and white-collar workers will continue to call South Russell home. 4. Supporting the South Russell PD so they can stay up-to-date with new policing tactics/tools and aiding their community relations programs. 5. Legislating and providing executive branch oversight with civility. Disagreement is good and provides a path towards progress, but this can only be achieved when leaders are respectful.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** I would like to see an expansion of services for seniors. Whether it be through a volunteer program administered by the Village or a completely budgeted program serviced by employees, I believe assisting our more experienced community members should be a priority. Examples of things that are worth investigating include: a program for checking-in on seniors who live alone, assisting with lawn mowing or snow removal, and educational programming that addresses issues of interest – such as how to utilize various programs provided by government and non-profits for seniors.

##### • Ruth Cavanagh

**Campaign Email:** [ruthcav@cebridge.net](mailto:ruthcav@cebridge.net)  
**Education:** Kent State University, 1975 Cuyahoga Community College, RN, 1991

**Training & Experience:** S. Russell 1994, BZA, 1995-2000 Council, all committees except finance. Served during Bellwood subdivision septic to sewer transition. Headed S Russell 75th Anniversary. Paw Lake Homeowners Trustee 3 terms, Life member: CF Alumni, CF Historical, raised CF Methodist.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Management of surface and storm water. Serious infrastructure requiring ongoing updating, which means working with the subdivisions, identifying and prioritizing problems. Maintaining semi-rural character with cooperation of residents. Continuing to deliver excellent services to residents, including the police, service, road and building departments.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Much closer attention from the Village Engineer on projects involving drainage, Storm and surface runoff have taken priority in issues and must continue to the satisfaction of all residents affected. Several ongoing projects are continuing in this regard. Police Dept is excellent. Service Dept is well run. Building Dept is committed to great service. On the whole, residents are well served in a beautiful community.

**- Dennis M Galicki**

**Campaign Email:** dennisgalicki@gmail.com  
**Education:** U.S. Naval War College (M.A.) United States Naval Academy (B.S.) Miami University (Ohio)  
**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Provide tangible deliverables to the taxpayers/residents to mitigate storm water/flooding issues that we are experiencing within the Village. I have been disappointed that, over the past four years, the Village has done little, if anything, in terms of tangible projects to control/mitigate flooding. We have, instead, focused on wetland restoration/wildlife habitat grants, which do little to mitigate any of our stormwater issues. In the past 4 years, one wetland grant project has been completed (next to Village Hall) and we have expended \$145,000.00 of taxpayer money to date on legal and engineering fees on a second project that it appears we still cannot identify the owner/s to negotiate a reasonable easement fee to start the project.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Properly staff the village building department by hiring a qualified part-time zoning inspector as soon as possible in an effort to re-invigorate enforcement of our zoning codes and maintaining South Russell Village as a great place to live and work. These services are currently provided by a part-time contract building/zoning inspector and have not always received proper attention over the past few years since our last full time building official sought increased pay and responsibility within another municipality. Develop a succession plan to replace the part-time contract building/zoning inspector services with a full-time village employee.

**- Greg Heilman**

**- Cindy Nairn**

**Mark E Porter**

**Campaign Email:** mp@mporterlaw.com  
**Education:** B.S., U.S. Naval Academy (1984) M.A., University of Marland (1986) J.D., Rutgers University School of Law (2000)

**Training & Experience:** - 15+ years as a Councilman in South Russell Village - President Pro Tem of Council - Chair, South Russell Village Safety Committee - Past Chair, South Russell Village Finance Committee - Member and past Chair, South Russell Village Streets Committee

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** 1)Addressing stormwater and flooding issues in South Russell Village in a fiscally responsible manner 2) Maintaining South Russell Village's semi-rural character by enforcing existing zoning laws aimed at improving the Village's housing stock 3) Continued support for the Village's police force 4) Maintaining the Village's roads and bridges in an excellent state of repair

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** My goal, if re-elected, would be to expand the Village's stormwater/flooding mitigation efforts.

**AUBURN TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Eugene T McCune Jr
- Michael S Troyan

**BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Michael Bates

**Campaign Email:** batestrustee2021@gmail.com  
**Education:** Gannon University BA - Arts/Humanities St. Vincent Seminary M.Div. John Carroll University M.Ed. University of Phoenix Ed.D.

**Training & Experience:** 25 years as a classroom teacher. Chair of the Local Professional Development Committee for 15+ years. Building Leadership Team member at Kenston Middle School for 5+ years.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Bainbridge is a great place to live and raise a family. There are infrastructure needs, such as frequent power outages, and reliable Broadband internet service that can and should be addressed. Preserving the rural/small-town character of our community is also a priority. Lastly, finding ways to attract and support small businesses should continue to be explored.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** As the recent pandemic has shown, access to reliable, fast broadband internet choices and services should be addressed for those who find themselves working or learning from home. As a teacher in the community, I experienced the frustration of those who struggled to get or stay online, often with multiple people in the household trying to connect with teachers, classmates or colleagues. Also, exploring and insisting on improvements to our power grid to minimize the frequent outages our community experiences is something I hope to address. Furthermore, while decreasing the frequency of outages is a goal, also focusing on decreasing wait times for restoring service should be pursued.

**- AJ Khoury**

**Campaign Email:** khouryfortrustee2021@gmail.com  
**Education:** Bachelors of Science- Food Science Masters of Jurisprudence - Global Food Law

**Training & Experience:** More than a decade of experience across a number of functions in both midsized companies and multinationals with responsibilities but not limited to budget maintenance and renovation, cross functional communication, client services, technical and engineering support.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Frequent power outages in the township are creating hardship for residents and as the township with the highest property taxes in Geauga County and some of the highest township property taxes in the State of Ohio the residents of Bainbridge truly deserve better. This is a problem that can be addressed with better leadership, and I'm sure we will end these outages by addressing this issue with the utility and Public Utilities Commission. Flooding has been a long standing and continuing problem in Bainbridge. I will also work to reduce township property

taxes on residential property.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Increasing access to service providers in this community is critical as healthy competition in utility, communication, etc. is the best way to drive down costs and bring value for consumers. Many of the service providers we currently have are unreliable, unresponsive, unaffordable or all three, much of this was made even more evident over the last 18 months. With the community growing and more residents on fixed incomes it is important to address these issues.

**- Jeffrey Markley**

**Campaign Email:** jmarkley@outlook.com  
**Education:** Walsh Jesuit H.S (1982) --- Bachelor of Arts, Miami University (1986) --- MLA, The Ohio State University (1989)

**Training & Experience:** Township Trustee 2006-Present --- City Planner, City of Independence 2006-Present --- Self-Employed Consultant 1999-2021

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Having been a trustee for nearly sixteen years, fiscal responsibility has and will continue to be the most important aspect of township government for me. It is essential that our levied departments continue to manage the resources, equipment and tax dollars they receive responsibly and with the understanding that they achieve efficiencies in their operations before asking for more tax dollars. The other priority for me is to ensure that development and redevelopment of our community are done properly, addressing concerns that stem from growth, including traffic management, property values, and crime. Change is inevitable and proactively managing that change to promote economic development and protect my community's values is paramount.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Bainbridge is fortunate to have outstanding services, led and performed by dedicated and conscientious employees in our fire, police, service and zoning departments. Each of these focuses on service to the community, recognizing that they exist to improve the lives of our residents. It is extremely rewarding when I see members of our township departments contributing to the success of a civic event, a community outreach opportunity, or simply doing their job and being recognized for it by a resident. If there was any service to be added, it might be trash collection, with a single township contract, saving wear and tear on our roads, and providing good value to our residents. Something to discuss to be sure!

**BURTON TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Kenneth C Burnett
- Daniel Whiting

**CHARDON TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Michael Brown
- Timothy M McKenna

**CHESTER TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Walter Claypool

**Campaign Email:** skip@skipclaypool.com  
**Education:** BS Math/Computer Science, Air Traffic Control

**Training & Experience:** Air Force (9 Years), Air Traffic Control, Corporate Systems Expert working companies in North America, Asia, South America, & Mexico to implement systems, business change and process improvement. Personnel Management, Leadership, Project Management, Budgeting

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** I am focusing on delivering high quality township services while working to do so by sound conservative fiscal management. Every hard earned tax dollar should be spent responsibly. Out side of ensuring that the administration of township offices are operated well, the trustees have oversight over the road department, police, and fire department. I have objectives to help make each of these departments more effective.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** The services in Chesterland are about right. I am working to make them more effective and efficient.

**- Joseph C Mazzurco**

**Campaign Email:** joemazzurco2017@gmail.com  
**Education:** Bachelor of Business Administration, KSU Graduate of West Geauga High School

**Training & Experience:** 27 yrs. of building a business. Managed Budget of \$15 million. 20 yrs. member of Chesterland Lions Club, President for two terms, help developed Safety Township. 7 yrs. assist coach West Geauga Football Member of West Geauga Turf Committee to raise money for field

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** The top priorities in Chester Township are as follows. Creating stability in each of the Dept. Fire, Police, Road and in Town Hall. This means in each Dept. we create a working atmosphere with a stable fiscal budget, employee retention, quality assets, updated technology, continuing education, and cross training. In return these items will help each of the Dept. to keep high quality of services and images to service our resident's. By keeping Police dept. top priority which in turn helps keep Chesterland the safest town in Ohio.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Would like to coordinate the activity to the current internet providers to have access to the community.

**- Anthony Peto**

**Campaign Email:** anthonypeto@yahoo.com  
**Education:** HARVARD UNIVERSITY • Cambridge, MA 2008 Graduate of Fellowship in Trade Union Program  
**Training & Experience:** JOINT APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING CENTER • 2004 Graduate of Four-Year Carpentry Training Program

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Communication and Transparency. To establish a viable means of communication between the residents and trustees of Chester Twp so that the residents know what is going on within the Twp without having to attend a trustee meeting or read about it in the local newspaper after the fact. To enhance transparency of what is going on within the community that could affect the Twp and its residents. To create and streamline and efficient manner of protocol. Zoning Department - to address the inability to properly to enforce the zoning regulations in Chester Twp that ultimately protect the Twp from unrestricted development and use.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** I would expand upon the Road Department. Infrastructure is an always aging and deteriorating structure. It needs to be maintained. Side streets do not need to be overlooked. All roads wear on residents' vehicles and our roadways need to be properly maintained and kept clean and clear from obstructions - no matter what season. This is a priority.

**- Michael J Petruziello**

**Campaign Email:** mike@qualityquartz.com  
**Education:** Some Classes at the following: Cleveland State University Cleveland Engineering School John Carroll  
**Training & Experience:** Geauga County Metropolitan Housing Authority 2018 to present Geauga County Health Board 2018 to present Chester Trustee 2013-2017 Geauga County Park District Commissioner 2011-2013

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** The top priorities for Chester should be keeping it Rural with large lot zoning to keep it that way. Over the past several years there has been much talk about making Chester a city to generate more tax income of which I believe will change our way of life. I will work hard to see that this does not happen. Secondly, I will work to make sure that our Police and Fire Departments are first class as they have always been in my 36 years of living in Chesterland. Thirdly, I would make sure that our Road Department does what is required under the ORC which is to maintain the road by crack sealing and clearing them of all debris. And final I would set up an Architectural review board for all new construction in Chesterland.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** It's popular for politicians to make election-year promises to residents without taking into consideration the budget, and I'm not going to do that until I review Chesterland's finances from the inside. From the outside, it appears that we're at a crossroads, with sufficient income to fund our current level of services. I don't believe spending money we don't have, and don't support raising taxes without first looking at cost-saving measures. Chesterland is the recipient of COVID relief funds. They have been allocated for wages when those wages were already appropriated. Residents should be asked their opinion of whether/how these funds should be used. For example, the money could be returned to taxpayers through a variety of means.

**- Craig S Richter**

**- Eric Charles Wittine**

**Education:** Case Western Reserve University (MBA) Georgetown University (MA) Miami University (BA)  
**Training & Experience:** I have more than 35 years experience in chemical, coating, materials and medical industries. I've held positions as sales engineer, product and marketing director and general management.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** a) Keep Chesterland Rural b) Clear and Fair implementation of Zoning Rules c) Fiscal Responsibility d) Law and Order according to U.S. Constitution as written.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** a) I would like to see greater participation in our trustee meetings for sure. Also there are many activities that we can initiate such as "Community Days, Spring Fling, Autumn fest, Etc." that bring us closer as a community. The Memorial Day service seems to be growing, but we can still have greater participation. Although, the most recent 911 memorial service at the Parkside park was lightly attended, it was inspirational and reminded us of something greater than ourselves, our Country. b) I would continue to support recycling and heavy trash drop-offs as they help to protect our environment.

**CLARIDON TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Cooper J Sherman

**- Jonathan E Tiber**

**Training & Experience:** 4-years Township Trustee Geauga Trumbull Solid Wasted District Advisory Council Geauga County Public Health District Advisory Council

**HAMBEN TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Paul A Molan

**- Scott K Yamamoto**

**Campaign Email:** taxman94@gmail.com  
**Education:** Associates of Applied Business - University of Akron

**Training & Experience:** Township Trustee since 2016. 2020 Graduate of the Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy

**HUNTSBURG TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Richard Aaron Judd
- Jerry M Rose Jr

**- Nancy J Saunders**

**Campaign Email:** saunders12081@windstream.net  
**Education:** Graduate Cardinal High School CEU computers, health & finance Completed required Ethics & Public Records Training

**Training & Experience:** Huntsburg Township Fiscal Officer December 1982 through March 2008. Huntsburg Administrative Assistant April 1, 2008 to Dec. 2013 Huntsburg Trustee 2014 to present

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Sustaining township services on our current financial resources is the most important issue facing our community. I believe by including the residents in the decision making we can achieve an efficient form of government staying within the township's budget. The budget is also an important issue especially in tough economic times. We must continue to work within our financial limits even if it means we do the work ourselves. I am willing to roll up my sleeves and actually work when and where needed. I will continue to seek out grant funding as in the past. I have worked hard with trustees to keep our costs down and have tried not to raise taxes.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Parks: We have a beautiful recreational park that I, along with fellow trustees at the time, secured funding through state grants. The cost of maintaining the park rises every year. Currently the park needs repairs to the rear pavilion, baseball backstops, resurfacing of the tennis and basketball courts and cleaning of the pond Roads: I have worked with many boards of trustees to find funding to hard surface our township roads. Funding is very difficult to find for township roads. I will continue to work toward a goal with other trustees to keep our roads dust, mud and deep hole free. Cemeteries: The older cemeteries need restoration of foundations and headstones.

**MIDDLEFIELD TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Mervin E Miller

**- Paul Porter**

**Campaign Email:** paulporter482@gmail.com  
**Education:** Bachelor of science from Ashland University  
**Training & Experience:** Business Administration Degree form Ashland University. 28 Years Self Employed at Fitness Plus Completed Leadership Academy from Ohio Township Association.

**MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- James Marsic
- Randal C Peterson

**MUNSON TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- Andrew J Bushman

**Campaign Email:** Andybushman49@gmail.com  
**Education:** Chardon High School and BA Walsh University, Accounting, Finance and Management

**Training & Experience:** Current township trustee for the past 16 years. Strong Financial Background, Lifetime Munson Resident, , Meeting attendance since 1995 have regularly attended meeting regarding the township. Leadership Geauga class of 2004. Board member of various non- profits

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Munson is a typical bedroom community we as a community need to assure that we will be able to continue that path. We have constantly worked to improve our zoning and services to expand the quality of life in the township. This is an area that we need to maintain so that the community will flourish in the future. Second would be to continue research and develop actions and plans to improve our community. The township has done many things to enhance the quality of life for our residence. We should continue to push the

envelope to make our community the best it can be. Third maintain the trust that the residences of Munson have in the township, Munson is a great place to live and there are many items that still can make Munson better.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Now this is a tough question because there are things that you want to accomplish for the residences, but some are not allowed by the Ohio revised code. But we can offer items like a shred it event so residences can see their documents shredded. Other

items such as improvements to our township parks facilities and offering move events for our residents are always an option. Potentially there are others that I would like to see like potentially increasing the technology that the township is using to communicate to the residence. I know we could be more effective if we would revamp the townships website.

**- Jim McCaskey**

**- James Stanko**

**Education:** BS MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MBA BOTH FROM CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY  
**Training & Experience:** 30 years in high level aerospace with multi-million \$ contracts Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community? Top priorities are what the community wants A trustee's role is to provide safety to the community and fiscal responsibility to the Township

Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why? I need to review the records to provide a real answer to this question

**NEWBURY TOWNSHIP**

**TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

- William Majeski

**Campaign Email:** jmski@windstream.net  
**Education:** Graduate of Dyke College with B.S. in Business Management & Lakeland Community with AD in Applied Business

**Training & Experience:** Four years as Newbury Township Trustee; Ten years on Newbury Zoning Commission; Recently retired (42 years of service) at General Electric/Rexall (Inside Sales Representative); past member of the Newbury Area Kiwanis; Thirty-five-year Newbury resident

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** The top priorities to address in Newbury Township are the future of the Newbury School property and buildings as well as the Newbury Fire Department improvements. I would like to conduct resident surveys to see what the residents really want. I will strive to keep property taxes as low as possible. I also want to actively seek and attract more retail, light industrial and commercial businesses to the Route 87 corridor. Ultimately, I want to listen to all residents' concerns regarding the future of Newbury Township. I also would like to see a new and improved township website that is frequently updated.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Firstly, I would expand and update the township website to a more user-friendly atmosphere. Many times, when I view the website, information is old and unnecessary. I would like to see it updated regularly with important information for the residents. I would like to include a Trustees column to communicate upcoming events, meetings, and other important information. Secondly, I would add the service of document shredding if our budget would allow for this. Thirdly, I would like to see the Trustees' meeting videotaped and placed on the website for all to listen and view. Finally, I would like to see the services of a local grocery store again. I know that the residents would embrace this with open arms.

#### • **Phill A Paradise Jr**

**Campaign Email:** phillip.paradise@gmail.com  
**Education:** Newbury High School Graduate - Bachelor of Science - John Carroll University - Red Cross Instructor  
**Training & Experience:** Thankfully, no experience as a politician.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** Enhancing small businesses and giving the residents a place to gather together as a community. Enhancing community activities and providing a safe and healthful community for everyone. I will not be making promises I can't keep.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Services are based on needs and needs are prioritized by community communication with the Trustees. Until I know what the township wants, I cannot say I would expand or reduce any services.

#### • **William Skomrock Jr**

**Campaign Email:** billskomrock@roadrunner.com  
**Education:** 1972 Newbury High School Graduate 1 Year Kent State University

**Training & Experience:** 20 years experience as a Newbury Township Trustee. Safety Director for The Keenan Advantage Group/DistTech. Smith System Driver Trainer, OSHA 40 Hour, HM Training, NTCC Honor Award Past Newbury Fire Department member, 15 years. Former Emergency Medical Technician.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** In my opinion, there are 4 priorities top priorities that Newbury Township has to face immediately. 1) Staffing for the Newbury Volunteer Fire Dept. 2) Negotiations with the West Geauga Board of Education for the former Newbury School Property. 3) The health, safety and welfare of our Newbury residents, not only as a result of Covid 19, but in all aspects of life. 4) Dependable High Speed internet for our entire township.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** I have always supported the volunteers on our fire department through the years and was a volunteer myself in the past. It is unfortunate that volunteerism has slowly dwindled away and the fire department is finding it more and more difficult to staff their roster. I believe that staffing the fire department is necessary to assure when you call 911 that they respond in a timely fashion to assist you in any emergency at anytime. I believe that the township should acquire the former Newbury School property without having to be a burden on the community. There are many options for the use of this precious downtown real estate. I vision a Community Center, children's athletic groups and fine arts groups. Think of Newbury as a destination town!!

#### • **Greg Tropf**

#### • **Maggie Zock**

**Campaign Email:** margaritamarie@yahoo.com  
**Education:** Proud alumnus of Newbury High School & Bachelors in Arts and Science-Conflict Management  
**Training & Experience:** Board President of the Newbury LSD Board of Education. Newbury Township Trustee's task force member to explore a community center. Worked for Geauga Co. Job & Family Services for 12 years. Facilitate business strategy and operations for Newbury based medical device co.

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** 1. Taking this once in a lifetime opportunity to create a town center using the previous Newbury LSD property to establish arts, athletic and recreational programming, township offices, Geauga County Public Library, community events, create space in the current town hall for a Newbury Historical Society. Additionally, preserving this land will be critical to future township planning. 2. Newbury is one of the two remaining townships in Geauga County to remain a volunteer fire department. It is time to explore a well thought out and communicated plan to transition away from an all-volunteer fire department to provide relief to our long-time volunteers and to improve our response times within a reasonable budget. 3. Reliable internet access

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** The development of a community center for all of the above-mentioned purposes also provides space for local nonprofit groups, such as 4H, to meet, provide additional programming, fundraising, and for the public to use for affordable indoor event space for birthday parties, baby showers, etc. Improving our Fire/EMS response times from an average of 9 min. to align with our neighboring townships closer to 3/4 minutes. Additionally, an indoor and outdoor space to accommodate community gatherings and parking for events such as the Memorial Day parade and other wonderful events put on by the dedicated park board are so important. Retain our identity, a continued sense of safety, a renewed sense of community.

## **PARKMAN TOWNSHIP**

### **TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

#### • **Dennis Ikeler**

#### • **John Norman**

**Campaign Email:** normbo44@gmail.com  
**Education:** BS in Business Administration - Accounting West Virginia University

**Training & Experience:** 25 years experience as an Internal Revenue Agent, Steward for the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), 8 years as a Management and Program Analyst - Training Analyst

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** I see Parkman as a township with a huge potential to get things done. I would place great emphasis on what I perceive to be a splintered citizenship. I would emphasize the need for all peoples, regardless of cultural variation or principles, to become involved in the welfare of the community. Parkman has not had any type of community get-together during which ideas to benefit the community can be exchanged, other than periodic trustee meetings which tend to be measured and lack community involvement. Fresh ideas and a PLAN are needed to further the development of roads in our community. I would work with my fellow trustees to effectively produce a budgeted plan of action to fund major projects and build trust in township services.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** The extent to which service are offered are dictated by 2 factors: need and resources. The needs of this aging community include access to reliable EMS, fire and other public services. At present, these services are stretched to capacity under the current budgetary constraints. I would take a look at the current budget for these services and work with the departmental leadership to produce a cost-effective spending plan while providing an acceptable level of covered services.

#### • **Joyce Peters**

#### • **Lance Portman**

#### • **Ted Wojtasik**

**Campaign Email:** wojoss@windstream.net  
**Education:** HS Diploma

**Training & Experience:** Past President of Bainbridge Chapter Jaycees, Business Owner for 5 different Business'

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** I would like to address wasteful spending and broken promises. I have, over the years of Jaycees and businesses, learned how to work with people and pull resources from around me. I am frugal with money and would like to see updated equipment at the road dept,( to lower the repair bills so we can put it into the roads) and resolve some of the issues at the fire department, such as getting people to fill the shifts, having a safe environment, and safe and working equipment. This is an aging community and have many need to be met. We can't do things like we used to because it is a very busy world. I would like to work with fire chief, road supervisor and people in the community to bring them all together with ideas.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** I don't know if it is necessary to expand on services as much as using services we have more efficiently.

### **FISCAL OFFICER (CHOOSE 1)**

#### • **Denise Villers**

**Campaign Email:** denise.villers17880@gmail.com  
**Education:** Cardinal High School graduate

**Training & Experience:** I ran the office of my husband's electrical contracting business for 30 years. I took care of the billing, payroll, accounts receivables, accounts payable, and blueprint take-offs for cost estimates. I am currently serving as treasurer at Parkman Congregational Church.

**Q: How has your prior training and experience prepared you to serve in this role?** I feel that 40 years of office experience and 30 years as a business owner has prepared me to take on the role of Fiscal Officer for Parkman Township.

#### • **Susan D Wojtasik**

**Campaign Email:** sdwojoss@gmail.com  
**Education:** Associates Degree in Health Information Technologies (Valedictorian) Accounting and bookkeeping

**Training & Experience:** Fiscal Officer 90+ training hrs w/ Auditor of State, UAN and one-on-one with fiscal officers, Owned 4 businesses and Past Jaycee President in Bainbridge Chapter, Past Foster Parent, CASA worker and Administrative Assistant. Questions:

**Q: How has your prior training and experience prepared you to serve in this role?** Accounting & Bookkeeping schooling - working with spreadsheets, numbers and budgets. HIT degree- working with state codes and compliances. Training with Auditor and UAN - direct coding and money managing for townships specifically. Past Foster Parent - dealing with all kinds of personalities and time management. CASA Worker - dealing with laws and rules necessary for reporting to courts. Past Jaycee Pres. Bainbridge chptr. - Leadersip skills in civic projects and dealing with budgets & policies. Business Owner - Managing Money, budgets, and handling HR. Administrative Assistant - Not afraid to put time into work, managing people, staying organized and getting things done.

## **RUSSELL TOWNSHIP**

### **TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

#### • **Christopher A Hare**

#### • **Jim Mueller**

**Campaign Email:** jmuellerpolysci@aol.com  
**Education:** St. Joseph High School BS in Chemical Engineering - CSU Half of MBA at CWRU

**Training & Experience:** \* 4 years as State Representative \* 16 years as Geauga County Commissioner \* 12 years as Russell Twp. Trustee \* 3 years Chairman of the Geauga County Planning Commission

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** My top priority is to keep Russell Township

just as it has been: a quiet, safe oasis in an ever crazier world around us!! To maintain an outstanding staff of professional police...fire...EMT's...and Road Department personnel who deliver services in a warm, friendly way to our residents. To maintain as much open space, forestland and land set aside in conservation easements as possible, so that our grandchildren will have the opportunity to see a wild Red Fox...deer in a field...an Eagle on the wing... that we have had in Russell.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** Because we have a substantial population of senior citizens, almost all of whom want to stay in their homes, I would like to see more outreach from your Geauga County Department of Aging on services they can provide to keep our Seniors well maintained in their existing homes. Home services such as expanded transportation opportunities, in home health visits, etc., would be helpful.

#### • **Matthew Rambo**

**Campaign Email:** matt@ramboforgeauga.com  
**Education:** B.S. Electrical Engineering, The Ohio State University; J.D., The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

**Training & Experience:** Russell Board of Zoning Appeals: 2021-Present; Geauga County Township Association, Associate Member: 2018-2021; License to Practice Law: 2005-Present

**Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community?** My top priority will be to maintain Russell's character as a low-density residential community that protects its natural resources and ensures that future development respects Russell's large-lot zoning requirements. Additionally, I will prioritize fiscal responsibility to ensure that Russell resident's tax dollars are being spent wisely and for purposes that are in the best interest of residents and that further Russell's current character. My goal is not to promote development, but rather to maintain Russell largely in its current state while supporting our local police and fire units to maintain safety and security in the township.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** I am in favor of fulltime fire/EMS personnel. While the previously proposed fire levy has been withdrawn at the request of the Geauga County Budget Commission, I think the issue of providing the Russell Fire Department with fulltime personnel should be revisited in the near future. The safety and security of Russell citizens is paramount.

## **THOMPSON TOWNSHIP**

### **TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

#### • **Erwin Leffel**

#### • **Heather L Moseman**

## **TROY TOWNSHIP**

### **TRUSTEE (CHOOSE 2)**

#### • **Leonard A Barcikosi**

#### • **Donn Breckenridge**

#### • **Jeannine Reeves**

**Campaign Email:** jcr88@jobapassembly.com  
**Education:** Graduate Berkshire

**Training & Experience:** Board of Zoning Commission, in 2nd term, 7 years as Chairperson. Jobap Assembly Inc Operations Manager and Accounting 14 years Q: What are the top priorities to address in your community? I believe we need to do something to help the Fire Department work toward 24/7 coverage. Depending on mutual aid from other communities is not always the best thing for our residents. Our nation is in the midst of a crisis finding employees. This includes our first responders. We need to have the ability to house our people and pay them a living wage. I believe, unfortunately, the time of volunteer fire fighters may be coming to an end.

**Q: What services to the community, if any, would you expand or reduce? Why?** - no response -

#### • **Michael J Spencer**

## **BERKSHIRE SCHOOL BOARD (CHOOSE 2)**

#### • **John J Manfredi**

**Campaign Email:** jmanfredi23@hotmail.com  
**Education:** Graduate of Newbury High School 1976 Attended Kent State University

**Training & Experience:** Current President Berkshire Board of Education 16 years on the Berkshire Board of Education Berkshire Education Foundation Member

#### • **Jody L Miller**

**Campaign Email:** JodyMiller1@gmail.com  
**Education:** Bachelor Degree from The Ohio State University

**Training & Experience:** Berkshire Board of Education Member for three years and current VP Berkshire Education Foundation Member Berkshire Athletic Boosters Member

## **CARDINAL SCHOOL BOARD (CHOOSE 2)**

#### • **Kristen Klepper**

**Campaign Email:** kklepper24@gmail.com  
**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** Balancing funding while providing a quality education

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** All CDC and local health department guidelines should be taken into consideration. I also feel strongly about receiving feedback from the community and parents that school boards are elected to represent. School boards should strive to strike a happy medium.

#### • **Heidi Lanskey-Snyder**

#### • **Linda J Smallwood**

**Campaign Email:** plsmallwood@roadrunner.com  
**Education:** High School Graduate Some College  
**Training & Experience:** Over 20 years in public service including 6 years on the school board. Q: What are the top

priorities the School Board must address in the coming year? Balancing funding while providing quality education

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** Listen to the Health Department and Parents to find a solution.

## **CHAGRIN FALLS SCHOOL BOARD (CHOOSE 3)**

#### • **Lori Bendall**

**Campaign Email:** lebendallcampaign@gmail.com  
**Education:** I received my J.D. from George Washington University and a B.A. in finance and operations management from Boston University.

**Training & Experience:** I began as a tax and transactional attorney representing government contractors, non-profits, and unions. I then founded a legal search firm and helped large firms and Fortune 500 companies recruit attorneys and negotiate benefits. I also am an active school volunteer.

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** It's time to put students first, not politics. We have a superintendent who is new to our district but brings a wealth of experience. We must leverage her skillset to strengthen our already strong schools through our next strategic planning cycle. We also should continue and enhance the fiscal diligence that has allowed us to extend our levy cycle. Board members are a bridge to the community and should welcome civil feedback and discourse.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** We have an exceptional team of administrators who track Ohio Department of Health, Geauga and Cuyahoga county, and national guidance. We must follow all legally mandated health orders. When decisions are left to the schools, our administrative team works to use available mitigation strategies to keep our students in the classroom. These decisions are decisions are not made lightly.

#### • **Erin L Gooch (Write-In)**

#### • **Mandy Hilston**

**Campaign Email:** cfunitforeducation@gmail.com  
**Education:** Chagrin Falls High School, Miami University, BS

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** The school board should focus on maintaining the highest level of education for all of our students which means access to a wide variety of resources allowing each child to reach their full potential. In the coming year(s) we should address topics including, but not limited to, growing our STEM program, offering more foreign language choices at younger ages, a Robotics program, new band uniforms, and so much more. Along with this, the board of education members must also have transparency with the taxpayers and that includes open conversations about where and on what money is being spent.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** Board members should allow parents and employees of the school to decide what is best for their own personal situation. This includes all aspects surrounding Covid-19 whether it be masks (on teachers or students), vaccines, remote vs. in-person learning, etc. Parents should make the final decision for their children about what they think is the healthiest option and teachers should decide for themselves what makes them comfortable.

#### • **Meghan McClain**

#### • **Lauren Miller**

**Campaign Email:** LaurenMillerBOE@gmail.com  
**Education:** BS in Engineering Management

**Training & Experience:** Alumna, parent of current students across three school campuses, active volunteer in schools and community organizations

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** 1) Continuing to educate our children to the highest standards and responsibly steward the investment of the taxpayers in our schools 2) Onboarding our new superintendent, Dr. Jennifer Penczarski. We need to help familiarize her with the uniqueness of our community and work to leverage her skills and experience to help our district move forward. 3) Setting a new strategic vision that provides for the individualized education of all learners and ensures that the work of diversity and inclusion continues in the district.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** Board members need to consult the guidelines put forth by the CDC and both Geauga and Cuyahoga Boards of Health when setting COVID-related policies. When it comes to hybrid learning options, there are undoubtedly concerns put forth by teachers that need to be carefully considered - we need to be sure an undue burden is not placed on their shoulders by having to balance both in-person and online teaching.

#### • **Mary Kay O'Toole**

**Campaign Email:** marykayotoole@gmail.com  
**Education:** John Carroll University, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, major in Accounting, Received CPA designation in 1985

**Training & Experience:** I am a 12-year member of the Chagrin School Board, serving 4 years as President and 2 years as Vice President. Prior to being elected, I served on many district committees including Audit, Facilities, Superintendent Advisory, Strategic Planning and Levy Committees.

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** Student well-being and success is our top priority. We must meet the safety and security needs of our students, then attend to the educational needs of each student so that all are positioned to maximize their potential. A key priority of the School Board this year is to help our new superintendent, Dr. Penczarski, acclimate to the district. As our educational leader she is tasked with maintaining the academic excellence of our Chagrin Falls Schools and striving for improvement. Our community passed a 3.85

mill levy last November. Another key goal of the board is to not require additional money for at least three years. We review our finances regularly, with the intent to manage school operations in alignment with our planned funding.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** On COVID issues the board follows the guidance of respected public health organizations like the CDC and our state and local boards of health. We also learn from our experiences and those of similar school systems. We have excellent administrators who monitor and synthesize credible information on COVID topics such as masking, vaccine mandates, and blended learning models. The administrative team shares related recommendations with the board so that together we can collectively make informed decisions. Board members also listen to community members and appreciate the diversity of perspectives that exist. Decisions are earnestly made in the best interests of our students and staff, respecting that people may have dissenting opinions.

**- Robert E Schlepfer Jr**

**- Jeffrey Wenninger**

**Campaign Email:** jeffreywenninger@mac.com  
**Education:** Kent State University Bachelor of General Studies Sherman Block Leadership Institute Accredited Curriculum, Master of Science

**Training & Experience:** Refer to applicable question (Question #5)

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** The board must prioritize the manner in which it addresses, discusses and makes decisions regarding Covid-related policies and curriculum modifications. Establishing practices wherein people not only feel heard, but also have the sense they have been listened to must be a priority. The distrust, misinformation, and counterproductive community discourse is toxic and impairs the board's effectiveness in dealing with these divisive issues. Community trust and confidence in future board decisions will be determined by its ability to effectively handle these issues. The manner in which these issues are managed will impact the perceived competence and effectiveness of the future board.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** Community acceptance of policies for masking, vaccine requirements and the use of hybrid learning options requires consistent logic be used when consideration is given for imposed policies for all scholastic activities, whether in the classroom, on the athletic field or while participating in school extracurricular activities within our community. The rationale for imposed policies and learning models needs to be fundamentally supported by the codified guidance provided by the various government organizations. Otherwise, the purpose of the imposed policies becomes convoluted and vague.

**CHARDON SCHOOL BOARD (CHOOSE 2)**

**- Todd Albright**

**Campaign Email:** tralbright1@gmail.com  
**Education:** High School Diploma Associates of Applied Science

**Training & Experience:** OSHA 10 and 30 hour safety training Community service Election official Tech center volunteerism Political campaign work Husband and father

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** As I understand it, there are two priority concerns the taxpayers of this district demand be addressed. One is destructive curriculum, and the other is overreach of the board and the superintendent. Together these could be adequately summed up as a disconnect between the elected government of the school and the people. This is reflected in an indifference to the right of petition, an evident lack of respect for the communities resources, and a willful indulgence in a curricular trajectory that displeases the majority.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** Board members do not have the authority to violate the constitutionally granted freedoms of the people. Any health related policies or educational endeavors must not infringe upon the rights of any district members, and should always be based on parents right to choose.

**- Madelon Horvath**

**Campaign Email:** madhorvath@aol.com  
**Education:** Master's Degree  
**Training & Experience:** Taught English and theater - 30 years at Chardon HS. Directed all plays during that time. Have participated in Leadership Geauga and am current president of Chardon Tomorrow

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** The number one issue this year is COVID. With the Delta variant and numbers rising dramatically, the Chardon Bd of Ed recently voted to require masking in all of our buildings in order to best protect our kids, our staff, and their families. Also, Chardon has a small but important bond issue on the ballot; we have tried to listen to the community regarding our aging buildings and keep students warm, safe and dry. This bond issue would add parking and help reduce traffic congestion for the morning and afternoon pick-ups at the HS and MS. We plan to move the bus garage, replace windows and create safety vestibules at the main entrances of the HS and MS. The bond issue is less than 1 mill and will cost about \$28/ year for a \$100,000 home.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** This was not an issue last year because masking was mandated by the governor's office. This year this task has fallen on school boards. Vaccines are available only to students 12 years of age or older, so we must protect our youngest children. By Ohio state law we cannot ask anyone if they are vaccinated, or require vaccinations of students. This year, by law, we do not have the same options for virtual programming that we were able to implement last year. Our classrooms are relatively small and most classes have at least 25 students, so we simply do not have the space to distance as much as we would like to do. Therefore, masking has become necessary to keep our people safe as the numbers continue to rise.

**- CJ Paterniti**

**Campaign Email:** cjpaterniti@gmail.com  
**Education:** Chardon High School 2002  
**Training & Experience:** Ohio Collision Repair Board Member March 2012- February 2015 Appointed Board Member Auburn Career Center-July 2020-December 2021

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** One of the greatest responsibilities of a school board is sound fiscal management. The board is fortunate to currently be in a financially sound position from an operating perspective. This means that we can turn our focus to repairing buildings and making them safe, warm and dry. Transportation is also an area that needs attention from the board. Our students are dealing with long, unpredictable bus rides and unreliable transportation to and from sporting events. This is unacceptable and needs to be addressed immediately. Safety and security in our buildings is a key area that I'd like the board to focus on, ensuring that we've done everything we can to keep our students and staff safe in the school environment.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** I don't think it is fair that the weight of Covid-19 has been put on the shoulders of the board. It should come from the health department. I am a supporter of Parents choice. With having 3 young daughters at Park Elementary I truly believe for their development in-school learning is the best thing for them.

**- Gina Payne**

**Campaign Email:** info@payneandtaylorforchardon.com  
**Education:** I attended Chardon Schools K through 12 and graduated from Chardon high school in 1994.

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** The top priorities the school board must address in the next year are hearing the public voice to better understand the problems. What we have heard so far from parents are: the transportation issue (late buses and traffic jams at the middle and high school), upkeep of facilities, and improved relations between the board, parents, and taxpayers.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** Board members should consider parents as the ultimate authority when it comes to all medical decisions.

**- Alicia Taylor**

**Campaign Email:** info@payneandtaylorforchardon.com  
**Education:** Mayfield High School Graduate, Class of 2000; B.A. in English & Textual Studies, Summa Cum Laude, from Syracuse University

**Training & Experience:** Homeschool Teacher for 10 years; Co-op Creative Writing Teacher; Former Corporate Analyst/Editor at The Freedonia Group, an independent market research firm

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** One of the top priorities the Board must address in the coming year is how to hear the public voice in order to better understand and work to solve existing problems. What we have heard so far from parents regarding existing problems includes transportation issues, (late buses and traffic issues at the High School and Middle School,) the upkeep of facilities, and improved relations between the Board, parents and taxpayers.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** Board members should consider parents as the ultimate authority when it comes to medical decisions for their children.

**KENSTON SCHOOL BOARD(CHOOSE 3)**

**- Dennis J Bergansky**

**- Mabel E Kopp**

**- Beth Krause**

**Campaign Email:** bethkrause00@gmail.com  
**Education:** BS Pharmacy, MS Pharmacy Administration, PhD Pharmacy Administration

**Training & Experience:** Pharmacist since 1990, Pharmacy Director at Lake Health since 2010, School Board member since 2010, School Board President since 2016

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** The top priority is maintaining in-person learning during the pandemic. In-person learning provides the best opportunity for our students to learn and grow, and it is critical that we do all we can to allow this to continue. Adequate funding of our schools is another top priority, and Board members should continue to advocate for fair funding by the State.

**Q: What should board members consider when**

**deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** School districts are experts when it comes to education. We are not public health experts. Therefore, we must listen to and follow recommendations from health experts regarding COVID protocols in our schools. We use our expertise in education to teach in whatever environment is deemed safest for our students.

**- Benjamin Timmons**

**- William Timmons**

**- Jennifer M Troutman**

**Campaign Email:** lawyerjenn98@gmail.com  
**Education:** Bachelor of Science: Bowling Green State University Juris Doctorate: Ohio Northern University

**Training & Experience:** Attorney for 22 years. Currently with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; former private practice attorney; former law clerk for the 8th District Court of Appeals

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** Keeping our schools open for in person learning in the safest way possible for students and staff and other employees; balancing budget needs versus taxpayer burden and addressing our aging buildings.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** When deciding Covid-related policies, all stakeholders' opinions and positions must be considered. This means, students, parents, faculty, support staff and the community at large must be taken into consideration. At the same time, the recommendations of local and state health agencies should be considered. Every decision reached will affect the internal and external stakeholders in a different way. It is important to gather as much information from multiple sources as possible before making decisions.

**WEST GEUGA SCHOOL BOARD (CHOOSE 2)**

**- Chet Ramey**

**Campaign Email:** chet.ramey@gmail.com  
**Education:** B.S., Computer Engineering, CWRU, 1987 M.S., Computer Science, CWRU, 1993

**Training & Experience:** I have served one term on the West Geauga Board of Education, and I previously served seven years on the Board of a local non-profit organization.

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** The top priority of any school year is student success. This year, that means returning to as much in-person education as possible. Students learn best in an in-person environment, so we must do everything we can to maximize that, while protecting our students, teachers, and staff. The second priority is to work with the District administration to continue to support a culture of high achievement. We want our students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our third priority is to continue to work with Newbury Township on how to repurpose the former Newbury campus. We want the campus to be an asset to the community and the district. Finally, the District should continue to move forward with the Master Plan.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** The Board should value expertise: medical expertise, educational expertise, and experts in child and adolescent development. The expertise affects several areas: in-person instruction, vaccination, masking (indoor and outdoor), hybrid or remote instruction, and social interaction and distancing. That means respecting guidance from medical professionals, from public health agencies like the CDC and Ohio Department of Health to professional organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. The Board should listen to professionals who understand how students learn to structure in-person learning, when and how to provide remote instruction, and how to incorporate hybrid instruction.

**- Christina Sherwood**

**Campaign Email:** sherforest1@gmail.com  
**Education:** I earned a BA in English through Cleveland State University, a M.Ed. through Tiffin University & 20 hours towards MA in English

**Training & Experience:** I have been a classroom educator for 10 years, and I also adjunct at a local college.

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** One priority would be to ensure students feel like they are in a place that promotes learning first and foremost. We must also make sure that those students not going to college, those who are career-bound, feel like what they want from their life is of an equal concern as their peers' needs as they prepare for college. Another top priority for the board is to continue supporting the transition of Newbury students into our schools. Finally, we need to make sure that the tax dollars the school receives are being spent in a way that is best for both the students and the community. We must make sure that all positions, from the Central Office to each school, are necessary and are bringing with them the ability to serve our children.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** The very first thing that board members should consider is the students. Their needs are so complex at times, that no decision should come down to only one or two pieces of the puzzle. As an educator, I have seen first-hand how board policies affect students differently. I fully stand by a

parent's right to choose what is best for their child and do not believe that right should be infringed upon. The board should consider hybrid learning options, but only with the understanding that these options contain inherent limitations and may not deliver the same results as in-person learning.

**- Mary-Michelle Coleman Walsh**

**Campaign Email:** mcolemam@jcu.edu  
**Education:** Juris Doctor Case Western Reserve MA Nonprofit Administration John Carroll MA Communication Kent State BS Psychology John Carroll

**Training & Experience:** Lake Erie College- Director of Graduate Studies 2020-Present Notre Dame College-Director of Academic Affairs 2019-20 Gannon University- Visiting Assistant Professor 2016-19 John Carroll University-Assistant Professor Program Coordinator MA 2013-16

**Q: What are the top priorities the School Board must address in the coming year?** In the Coming year I would like the School Board to address: 1) Expanding College Credit Plus; 2) Transportation; 3) Expanding athletic and extracurricular options for all grade levels; 4) Class size; 5) Advance class offerings for lower grades; 6) Transparent school curriculum and clear communication related to goals and achievement benchmarks; 7) Increase communication with all parents regarding every aspect of their child's school performance, including social well-being and academic progress.

**Q: What should board members consider when deciding COVID-related policies such as masking, vaccine requirements, and hybrid learning options?** The first priority needs to be keeping the children attending in-person classes. We need to follow the board of health recommendations and the policies created to ensure student safety and a vibrant learning environment. We need to also follow federal guidelines and mandates when considering options. Finally, we should consider if our policy opens the district up to any form of legal liability that will need to be defended at the expense of the taxpayer.

**ISSUES**

**Issue 1 - Geauga County Proposed Tax Levy - 2.5 mills (Renewal), Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 2 - Chardon City Proposed Tax Levy - 7 mills (Renewal and Increase) Fire & EMS, 3 years commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 3 - Aquilla Village Proposed Tax Levy - 5.3 mills (Additional) Fire and EMS; 3 years commencing in 2021, first due in 2022.**

**Issue 4 - South Russell Village Proposed Tax Levy -4.2 mills (Renewal) Current Expenses, 5 years commencing in 2022 first due 2023.**

**Issue 5 - South Russell Village Proposed Tax Levy - 1.5 mills (Renewal) Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.**

**Issue 6 - Burton Township Proposed Tax Levy - 1.1 mills (Renewal) Streets, Roads & Bridges, 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due 2023.**

**Issue 7 - Chardon Township Proposed Tax Levy - 2.75 mills (Additional) Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 8 - Chardon Township Proposed Tax Levy - 1.25 mills (Replacement and Increase) Fire; EMS, 3 years commencing in 2021 and first due 2022.**

**Issue 9 - Chester Township Proposed Tax Levy - 0.5 mills (Additional) Police & EMS, 5 years commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 10 - Claridon Township Proposed Tax Levy - 1.76 mills (Additional) Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 11 - Hambden Township Proposed Tax Levy - 0.5 mill (Renewal) Current Expenses, 5 years commencing in 2022, first due 2023.**

**Issue 12 -Hambden Township Proposed Tax Levy - 1.5 mills (Renewal and Increase) Fire & EMS, 5 years commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 13 - Huntsburg Township Proposed Tax Levy - 3 mills (Renewal) Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years commencing in 2022, first due 2023.**

**Issue 14 - Middlefield Township Proposed Tax Levy - 2.5 mills (Renewal) Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 15 - Munson Township Proposed Tax Levy - 0.75 mills (Renewal) Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years commencing in 2022, first due 2023.**

**Issue 16 - Newbury Township Proposed Tax Levy - 5.5 mills (Additional) Fire & EMS, continuing, commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 17 - Newbury Township Proposed Tax Levy - 1.9 mills (Renewal) Streets, Roads and Bridges, continuing, commencing in 2022, first due 2023.**

**Issue 18 - Parkman Township Proposed Tax Levy - 4 mills (Additional) Fire & EMS, continuing, commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 20 - Thompson Township Proposed Tax Levy - 2.35 mills (Replacement) Streets, Roads and Bridges, 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due 2023.**

**Issue 21 -Troy Township Proposed Tax Levy - 2.9 mills (Additional) Fire & EMS, 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 22 - Chardon Local School District Proposed Bond Levy: \$7,200,000, 15 years, commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**Issue 23 - East Geauga Fire District Proposed Tax Levy - 1 mill (Renewal) Fire & EMS, 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due 2022.**

**KEY DATES**

- 10/04 - Voter Registration Deadline
- 10/05 - Absentee/Early In-Person Voting Begin
- 10/30 - Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot
- 11/01 - Postmark Date for Mailed Ballots
- 11/01 - Last day of Early In-Person Voting
- 11/02 - Election Day

**EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING SCHEDULE**

- 10/05-10/08 T-F 8am to 5pm
- 10/12-10/15 T-F 8am to 5pm
- 10/18-10/22 M-F 8am to 5pm
- 10/25-10/29 M-F 8am to 7pm
- 10/30 SAT 8am to 4pm
- 10/31 SUN 1pm to 5pm
- 11/01 MON 8am to 2pm

Vote early in-person at the County Board of Elections where you reside:

**Gauga Board of Elections**

470 Center St., Bldg 6A  
 Chardon, OH 44024

**Cuyahoga Board of Elections**

2925 Euclid Avenue  
 Cleveland, OH 44115