

THE ULTIMATE OHIO CITIZEN'S

VOTER'S GUIDE 2014

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, founded in 1920, is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Complementing it is the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund that provides nonpartisan information and educational services to citizens.

Prior to each state and national election, the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund provides nonpartisan information on candidates and issues to its local Leagues. This information is used in Voter Guides which are distributed by local Leagues throughout the state.

All statewide candidates who filed their intent to run for office with the Ohio Secretary of State were sent questions relating to the office they were seeking, as well as instructions on how to complete the candidate questionnaire. *The League does not alter, edit, correct, or evaluate any candidate's reply, and each candidate is solely responsible for the accuracy and truth of his or her statements. Each candidate is advised in writing to carefully note the word limitations listed on their questionnaire since no text beyond the word limit will be included.*

A candidate's answers are accepted and printed only with the understanding that the material will not be used in any way that may be deemed to be an endorsement by the League of his or her candidacy or views.

Deadline for Voter Registration is October 6th, 2014
Election Day is November 4th, 2014

Prepared by the
League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund
17 South High Street, Suite 650
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-469-1505

Please visit our website: www.lwvohio.org

Candidates: Governor

Edward FitzGerald – Democratic Party

Candidate did not respond

John Kasich – Republican Party

Address: 268 S. Fourth Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Email: info@kasichforohio.com

Biographical Information

<https://www.kasichforohio.com/meet-john/>

EDUCATION: 1974 graduate of The Ohio State University

OCCUPATION: Governor

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Current governor of Ohio; As chairman of the U.S. House Budget Committee I led the team that balanced the federal budget in 1997; 10 years in the private sector/business; Ohio Senate (1979-1982); U.S. House of Representatives (1983-2001); Governor (2011-present)

Questions & Answers

1) What three areas of government spending would you propose decreasing or increasing? Why?

When I came in, Ohio had lost 350,000 private sector jobs, faced an \$8 billion budget shortfall and was at risk of having its credit downgraded. My first priority was to restore Ohio's fiscal health and get people back to work. Since January 2011, Ohio has added nearly a quarter million private sector jobs, thanks in large part to these budget priorities set by my administration:

- Balanced the largest budget shortfall in state history without raising taxes
- Refilled the Rainy Day fund from 89 cents to \$1.48 billion
- Cut taxes by more than \$3 billion
- Increased state aid for K-12 education by \$1.3 billion (FY11 vs FY15) and provided the largest one-time funding increase in 10 years while also raising accountability
- Saved \$3 billion by reforming Medicaid without cutting services

2) What should be done to ensure that all charter schools and nonpublic schools that accept local and state financial support are assuring a quality education?

To further quality education in all our schools we implemented an A-F report card, a 3rd grade reading guarantee, the Cleveland Plan, and we recently passed legislation to create a new mentoring program and adopt reforms to prevent high school dropouts. We're working with parents to provide better information and striving for more accountability. Quality charter schools start with quality sponsors. Our administration has made changes so that sponsors will be evaluated on outcomes, compliance with rules, and the rigor of their practices to ensure quality, and only the best will be allowed to start schools. EdChoice schools must submit annual applications and proof of compliance. Voucher students must take state tests, and now we're requiring that if 65 percent of students in a school have vouchers, then all students in the school must take these tests.

3) What do you think is the impact of public/private partnerships on the economy of Ohio? Give examples.

Government should be a last resort to solving society's problems and we should continually seek opportunities to partner with the private sector for the betterment of Ohio.

- Ohio's new economic development entity, JobsOhio, works with local partners to identify and pursue job growth opportunities. JobsOhio has impacted 746 projects that are expected to collectively create and retain more than nearly 255,000 jobs.

- In 2011, we faced a \$1.6 billion transportation funding gap. After nearly a year of study, we adopted a plan to raise revenue by bonding against the Turnpike. The plan is expected to generate \$3 billion for infrastructure projects without raising the gas tax and create 65,000 construction jobs.

4) In the last few years, Ohio government spending and taxing has shifted from the state to local jurisdictions. How has this shift affected these communities?

We inherited an \$8 billion budget shortfall that required government at all levels to tighten its belt. We balanced the budget without a tax increase, we've shrunk state bureaucracy to the lowest levels in 30 years while providing over \$3 billion in tax relief for Ohioans. These policies are strengthening Ohio's economy and local revenues are increasing, largely without raising taxes. Since 2010, only five of 88 counties have raised their sales tax rate and only 42 of 936 cities and villages have increased their income tax rate. After the first two years of my term, 92 percent of the reporting counties, cities and villages achieved budget surpluses of more than 5 percent of revenue, altogether creating more than \$2.8 billion in surpluses. Despite reductions in the local government fund, since 2010 local government revenues are expected to have a net increase of \$829 million through the end of 2014.

Candidates: Lieutenant Governor

Sharen Neuhardt – Democratic Party

Candidate did not respond

Mary Taylor – Republican Party

Candidate did not respond

Candidates: Attorney General

Mike DeWine – Republican Party

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Email: Info@MikeDeWine.com

Biographical Information

<http://www.mikedewine.com/bio/>

EDUCATION: BS Education (Miami University 1969) JD (Ohio Northern University 1972)

OCCUPATION: Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Assistant Greene County Prosecuting Attorney - 1973-1975
Greene County Prosecuting Attorney - 1977-1981
Ohio 10th District State Senator - 1981-1982
United States House of Representatives - 1983-1991
Ohio Lieutenant Governor - 1991-1995
United States Senate - 1995-2007
Ohio Attorney General - 2011- present

Questions & Answers

1) What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities?

As Attorney General, protecting Ohio families has always been my top priority. My office has made tremendous progress in testing DNA evidence at the state crime lab, cutting the time it takes to get results back to cops from 125 days when I took office to 22 days. I've also started an initiative that has tested thousands of old rape kits that had sat on shelves for decades until I took action. That initiative has led to more than 200 men being charged with rape in previously unsolved cases. I've also worked hard to crack down on scam artists who prey on the elderly, and sending thieves and con-artists to prison. And my office has battled the prescription pill and heroin epidemic from my first day in office with a multi-faceted grassroots approach that includes cracking down on drug traffickers, community awareness, and recovery for those who are addicted.

2) During a time of shrinking budgets for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the Attorney General's office to make it more efficient and cost effective?

One of the most important changes I've made as Attorney General is to run the office like a business, in a far more efficient way. When I took office, I brought in business leaders from Ohio who sat down with my team to improve efficiency. For example, I discovered that evidence testing at BCI consisted of 187 steps. Working together, my team was able to eliminate inefficient steps, DNA testing now consists of 84 steps. The end result is that everything is done faster and with fewer people in a very efficient manner. Additionally, we have used that method to streamline the purchasing done in the office. When I took office, there were 12 different processes for purchasing. We eliminated ten of those and reduced it to two. Purchasing is now done 65% faster with half of the steps. This saves everyone time, which saves taxpayers money.

3) What criteria would you use to select special counsel to assist the Office of Attorney General?

As Attorney General, I prefer to use in-house Assistant Attorneys General on as many cases as possible. For specialized cases that require an outside lawyer, my goal is always to obtain an experienced, effective, and knowledgeable attorney for that case at the lowest cost to the taxpayers. My office also takes into considerations requests and recommendations from our client (e.g., state universities and government agencies) about potential outside lawyers.

David Pepper – Democratic Party

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Email: peter@davidpepper.com

Biographical Information

<http://davidpepper.com/meet-david/>

EDUCATION: Yale University - B.A., Yale University - J.D.

OCCUPATION: Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Cincinnati City Council, 2001-2005; Hamilton County Commissioner, 2006-2010; following 2001 riots, helped spearhead revitalization of Cincinnati through safety, economic development efforts and improved police-community relations; also a practicing private attorney for 15 years.

Questions & Answers

1) What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities?

My priorities are tackling crime, fighting for good jobs, and protecting consumers. From violence against women to protecting kids online, the office has to modernize its approach to fighting crime, and transition from being reactive to proactive. The best example is Ohio's ineffective response to the heroin epidemic – where there is no plan today and federal treatment dollars were recently cut across the board. We need far more treatment, prevention, smarter enforcement, and coordination if we are going to solve the problem. The office can also protect Ohioans' jobs and boost the economy by enforcing laws against wage abuse and worker misclassification. And we need to ramp up consumer protection, particularly in light of new Target-style threats to Ohioans' private data in the era of widespread electronic transactions.

2) During a time of shrinking budgets for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the Attorney General's office to make it more efficient and cost effective?

First, I would end the wasteful, inappropriate use of public resources to carry out the Attorney General's political and ideological agenda, which happens too often today. For example, Mike DeWine entered cases all over the country on behalf of Hobby Lobby and other companies trying to stop insurance coverage of birth control. He's even in court trying to remove a marriage from a deceased Ohioan's death certificate. Instead of wasting time and money entering courts on behalf of Hobby Lobby and other partisan causes, I will use office resources to address challenges faced right here in Ohio. Second, I would end the creation of redundant services already being performed at the local level. The AG can enter into partnerships with local agencies already doing good work, instead of setting up costly, competing state services.

3) What criteria would you use to select special counsel to assist the Office of Attorney General?

The highly publicized pay to play and bid-rigging involved in vendor selections has tainted the credibility of the office and cost the state millions. Incredibly, there are no written criteria whatsoever in making most critical assignments, and contributions are given at the same time as proposals are being submitted and considered. Unqualified firms have replaced highly qualified ones. The office needs to start over, serving as a model of public integrity. Our plan does that by creating much needed transparency and adding objective criteria to evaluate outside vendors seeking work based on their experience, subject matter expertise, quality of prior work, and cost. And all vendors will be posted on the Attorney General's website so that the public can easily see which firms are doing work for the

office. I will also create a blackout period where no fundraising can take place when vendors are being considered for work.

Candidates: Auditor

John Patrick Carney – Democratic Party

Address: 357 E. Torrence Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214

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Biographical Information

<http://votecarney.com/meet-john/>

EDUCATION: Bay Village High School, 1994; The Ohio State University, 1998; The Moritz School of Law at The Ohio State University, 2001

OCCUPATION: Healthcare Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Ohio House of Representatives, 2009-present

Questions & Answers

1) What will be the role of your auditor's office in promoting good fiscal practices and sound financial management in counties, municipalities, boards and districts?

The Auditor of State needs to work with local communities to achieve good fiscal practices and management. There have been drastic cuts over the past two state budgets that have hurt local governments and schools. As State Representative, I worked with Sen. Carey from across the aisle to sponsor legislation that would have helped communities engage in shared services where it makes sense. I will bring this bipartisan spirit to the Auditor's office because it is vital that we put people above party and work for the people of Ohio.

2) How does the office of auditor serve as a watchdog against fiscal mismanagement and corruption statewide?

The Auditor of State is the chief investigator for the state. The Auditor must put party loyalty aside to make sure the best interest of Ohioans is being served. The Auditor is the custodian of our natural resources. It is the duty of the office to ensure that our parks, lakes, rivers, and streams are being monitored. The Auditor of State also sits on the Apportionment Board with the intent of keeping the process as open as possible. In all of these matters, the Auditor has to pull back the curtain and let people see how their government is working. There is no excuse to let waste and fraud permeate our state. The Auditor has the ability to hold people accountable.

3) What suggestions do you have for making the auditor's office more efficient?

There has been one party rule in the Auditor's office for over 20 years. The first thing that would be done under my leadership is a top to bottom internal audit. This will provide greater transparency; it will help the public see what the office does as well as provide important information about where efficiencies can

be made. It is vital to the health of the office and the state that the Auditor of State's office is looked at with a critical eye. There have been instances of wasteful spending over the past few years and we need to root them out to make the Auditor the most efficient that it can be.

4) *How would you promote greater transparency and accountability in Ohio government?*

It is the Auditor of State's job to make sure the people of Ohio know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent. It is the Auditor's job to follow the money, pull back the curtain, and show taxpayers how their money is being used. It's a position that allows for the revelation of fraud and waste. As Auditor of State, it would be a priority to work with the different parts of state government to ensure there is transparency and accountability in the government. There are items at the disposal of the Auditor, such as subpoena power, that can and should be used to hold elected officials accountable to the taxpayers.

Dave Yost – Republican Party

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Email: contact@daveyost.com

Biographical Information

<http://www.daveyost.com/about/>

EDUCATION: The Ohio State University, 1984, Bachelor of Arts
Capital Law School, 1991, Juris Doctor

OCCUPATION: Auditor of State

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: As a County Auditor, Prosecutor and now State Auditor. Dave Yost is uniquely qualified to root out fraud, waste and abuse of tax dollars. Finding more than \$150 million in savings across Ohio governments, Dave Yost is always on the side of the taxpayers.

Questions & Answers

1) *What will be the role of your auditor's office in promoting good fiscal practices and sound financial management in counties, municipalities, boards and districts?*

Immediately upon taking office, I worked with the legislature to expand the use of performance audits at all levels of government in Ohio. Performance audits examine how local governments can find savings and efficiencies for the people they govern. By realizing the savings, more money can be used to protect citizens with police and fire fighters, or be set aside in a rainy day fund for use in an emergency.

As auditor, I have been developing an early warning system for local governments. By identifying certain financial indicators that are common when local governments go into fiscal emergency we will have an early warning system to prevent financial disasters.

2) *How does the office of auditor serve as a watchdog against fiscal mismanagement and corruption statewide?*

Fighting fraud has been a passion of mine since I was a prosecutor. The Special Audit Task Force at the auditor's office reviews all tips and irregularities during financial audits. No fraud is too small, and no

person, regardless of their politics, is above the law. Partnering with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, I have worked to put criminals behind bars for stealing public dollars.

The Auditor of State is responsible for reviewing the financial records of over 5,800 government entities in Ohio. My job is to ensure that those we elect are following the law, and I take that job very seriously. I am partnering with the legislature to increase training requirements of fiscal officers and make it easier to remove those that do not perform their duties.

3) *What suggestions do you have for making the auditor's office more efficient?*

I made a promise to voters that if I were auditor of state I would expand the use of performance audits. I also promised that the office of the Auditor of State would receive a performance audit of its own. I am proud to say that I kept that important campaign promise.

Performance audits are a great way to eliminate redundancies and identify practices that no longer have an administrative value. Since taking office, we have consolidated departments, combined audit regions, and reduced travel expenses. By renegotiating lease agreements, we've also been able to save over \$1 million.

While we have come a long way to increase efficiencies, the work is not over yet, and I will continue to find ways to cut costs, without cutting services to the people I serve.

4) *How would you promote greater transparency and accountability in Ohio government?*

The government works for us, the people of Ohio. Transparency allows the citizens of Ohio to review the work of government officials so we can evaluate their performance and determine if they are taking our communities in the right direction.

The auditor's office conducts numerous training seminars every year across Ohio to educate elected officials on public records. Every elected official is required to attend, or send a designee, to these seminars for every term they are elected to. I would like to see increased penalties on elected officials that fail in their basic duties to attend these important training seminars.

Candidates: Secretary of State

Jon Husted – Republican Party

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Biographical Information

<http://www.hustedforohio.com/about-jon-husted>

EDUCATION: Bachelor's and Master's Degree at University of Dayton

OCCUPATION: Ohio's 53rd Secretary of State

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:

Vice-President of Business and Economic Development at the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

First elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 2000 and then elected by his colleagues as Speaker of the Ohio House in 2004.

...word limit exceeded.

Questions & Answers

1) How would you ensure fair and impartial elections, and downplay the effect of partisan politics in the administration of elections?

My goal is to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. This way we give convenient access in casting a ballot, while having necessary safeguards to prevent fraud. This balance ensures fairness and increases confidence in elections.

I'll remain an advocate for reforms that improve Ohio elections. This includes online voter registration which saves millions of dollars administratively, makes registration easy for voters and ensures integrity of the process.

As Secretary of State in the most contested swing state, I know you can't avoid the partisan noise but you can avoid acting as a partisan by following the law and trying to work out bipartisan solutions. This is what I have done and will continue to do.

It's my priority to treat voters fairly by setting the same voting rules across Ohio. When all Ohioans vote by the same rules, our system is protected from political manipulation.

2) What would you do to improve voter turnout in Primary and General Elections in Ohio?

I would tell the partisans trying to convince people it's hard to vote to stop and join me in explaining how easy it is to vote in Ohio.

In 2012, I was the first Ohio Secretary of State to send every registered voter an absentee ballot request, something I will do again this year. Fill it out and send it in and you will have nearly 30 days to cast a ballot without ever leaving home. In addition, over the course of four weeks you can cast an early in-person ballot at the board of elections, including on the last two Saturdays and the final Sunday before the election. Of course on Election Day, you can vote from 6:30am to 7:30pm at your local polling location.

Voting is easy in Ohio. Share that message if you want more people to vote.

3) To what extent does voter fraud exist in the state of Ohio, and how should it be addressed?

Three things to remember about voter fraud in Ohio: it exists, it's rare, violators are held accountable and every day we are building a better elections system to prevent it.

It's important to separate facts from fiction. That's why I compiled Ohio's first ever voter fraud report after the 2012 November General Election. Here are the facts: county board of elections found 625 voting irregularities, and 270 cases were referred for further investigation or prosecution.

These cases represent a small but not unimportant number of the 5.63 million votes cast. I will continue

to hold violators accountable, so the vast majority of Ohioans who are doing it the right way are confident that their votes are not diluted by those who attempt to cheat.

4) During a time of shrinking budget for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the secretary of state's office to make it more efficient and cost effective?

We must do more with less, and I have used technology to improve the way we serve Ohioans.

Here are the facts: I reduced overall spending by 16%, saving more than \$13 million over my first term in the office. Payroll spending is down \$3.6 million and FY14 marked the lowest payroll spending in seven years.

We did all of this while at the same time improving voter services and cutting the time it takes to approve a record number of new business filings in 2012 and 2013. These technology upgrades now allow you to form a business and update your voter registration 24/7.

This is not what I promise to do; it is something I have already done. We are changing the culture of Ohio government by providing better services at a lower price.

5) How would you balance the desire for uniform voting opportunity and the differing needs of counties with larger versus smaller populations?

It's important to recognize that federal courts require us to treat voters equally, different rules for different counties are not and should not be an option.

It's my priority to treat voters with fairness by setting the same voting rules across Ohio. Ohioans shouldn't have fewer voting opportunities and less ballot access based on which county they live in.

I have expanded voting opportunities by launching an online change of address system and am the first Ohio Secretary of State to send every eligible voter (not just some voters in certain counties) an absentee ballot request in 2012 and also this year. You literally can vote 24 hours a day for nearly a month.

Between early in-person voting, absentee voting and Election Day voting, Ohioans have more opportunity than ever to cast a ballot. With these important elections improvements, access to voting in Ohio has never been more convenient.

Nina Turner – Democratic Party

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Biographical Information

<http://www.ninaturner.org/meet-nina>

EDUCATION:

- A.A., Cuyahoga Community College
- B.A. & M.A., Cleveland State University

OCCUPATION:

- Assistant Professor of History, Cuyahoga Community College
- State Senator, 25th District

TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Executive Assistant for Legislative Affairs, City of Cleveland
- Director of Government Affairs, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Questions & Answers***1) How would you ensure fair and impartial elections, and downplay the effect of partisan politics in the administration of elections?***

There are two ways in which we can reduce the partisanship that plagues our elections process. The first is by setting simple, consistent, and convenient rules that allow voters the opportunity to cast their ballot how and when it makes sense in their schedule. We must also stop reducing the voting options that were created in the wake of a disastrous 2004 election cycle in which more than 170,000 Ohioans walked away from the polls because of long lines and disorder on Election Day. Reducing opportunities to vote without any legitimate reason to do so will inevitably raise suspicion.

We must also reform the way Ohio draws its legislative and congressional district seats to make races more competitive so candidates have to appeal to all voters, not just the extremes of their party during the primary.

2) What would you do to improve voter turnout in Primary and General Elections in Ohio?

I see the Secretary of State's role in encouraging voter participation similar to how a business owner might see getting customers in their store. You can't just throw open the doors and sit back. You have to meet people where they are and make the case as to why casting their ballot is important.

Through partnerships with local media outlets and traveling the state to talk to voters, I plan to emphasize to all Ohioans why their vote is important. I also want to institute a pre-registration system in Ohio for 16 and 17 year-old Ohioans. By engaging young people early, we have a better chance of building good habits and turning them into lifelong voters. Lastly, political leaders must stop reducing voting opportunities. We can't expect more people to participate if it is becoming harder to do so.

3) To what extent does voter fraud exist in the state of Ohio, and how should it be addressed?

Voter fraud in Ohio is very, very rare. During the 2012 presidential election, the frequency of voter fraud was less than one-thousandth of one percent, and a voter is more likely to be struck by lightning than commit voter impersonation at the polls. A professor from Loyola University Law School also conducted a comprehensive survey of voter impersonation incidents nationwide, and found that there were only 31 cases out of one billions votes cast since 2008.

Despite the infrequency of attempts to commit fraud, the security of our elections remains critical because at the end of the day everyone has to have confidence in the results. I do believe that our present laws, which include up to three and a half years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, are working. Those who have committed voter fraud have been caught and brought to justice as they should be.

4) During a time of shrinking budget for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the secretary of state's office to make it more efficient and cost effective?

Over the past four years, the Secretary of State's has racked up more than \$400,000 in legal expenses in the process of defending their attempts to make it harder to vote. By reversing course and working to expand access and empower voters, we save those expenses. Those funds can be used to train a lot of poll workers, upgrade polling locations, and spread the word about the importance of voting.

5) How would you balance the desire for uniform voting opportunity and the differing needs of counties with larger versus smaller populations?

Ohio's largest county has almost one hundred times the population as its smallest. Although the challenges election workers face in these two situations are often similar, they are on dramatically different scales. Absolutely uniform rules and hours look good on paper, but they affect different populations in different ways.

I believe that local officials are in the best position to determine the needs of local voters. The state should be setting a default voting schedule—that includes evening and weekend access—and allow election boards to tailor them to local needs only with bi-partisan support. Switching to a system such as this will not only reduce partisan conflict, but ensure that all Ohio voters have a voting system that works for them.

Candidates: Treasurer

Josh Mandel – Republican Party

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Biographical Information

<http://joshmandel.com/>

EDUCATION: B.A., The Ohio State University, 2000; J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 2003

OCCUPATION: Ohio Treasurer of State

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: City of Lyndhurst, Ohio, City Councilman, (2004-2006); State Representative (District 17), (2007-2010); State Treasurer, (2011-present)

Questions & Answers

1) What measures will you take to assure high standards in the management of state investments?

The protection of tax dollars is my number one responsibility. My investment policy can be best summarized by ensuring that the principles of safety, liquidity and yield be followed, in that order. Only the safest investments should be made with the state's money, while keeping the portfolio liquid as needed. As Treasurer, I am proud to have earned a AAA credit rating on the \$3 billion local government

investment fund I manage on behalf of Ohio taxpayers, even as 14 other state and local government investment funds were downgraded. My office navigated the European sovereign debt crisis while earning a yield on behalf of taxpayers and the Treasury's liquidity portfolio has increased by \$3 billion under my administration.

2) *How does your work experience and education prepare you to collect and safeguard taxes and fees for the state of Ohio? Explain.*

Serving in the Marine Corps for eight years, including two tours in Iraq, I have used that training to restore discipline and integrity to the Treasurer's office.

The Treasurer's ultimate responsibility is to protect, collect and invest Ohioans' tax dollars. Upon taking office I immediately launched a top-bottom review to root out waste, fraud and abuse and began working to protect Ohioans' hard earned money. My office has received a clean audit each year since taking office which shows that the hard work of our talented and dedicated staff on behalf of taxpayers is paying off.

3) *What are your three goals for improving the efficiency of the treasurer's office?*

Upon taking office, I launched a top-bottom review of the Treasurer's office that has produced \$5 million in savings for taxpayers by increasing efficiency and modernizing operations. For example, under prior administrations the office drove over one million checks per year, worth more than \$2.8 billion, from the Treasurer's office in Columbus to a bank in Cleveland for deposit. I modernized the process, ended daily check driving, and switched to eBanking - saving more than \$100,000 and keeping tax dollars more safe and secure. I also voluntarily reduced my staff overhead - from 140 budgeted positions to 117 positions today - by reorganizing and consolidating departments and eliminating multiple positions, saving more than \$1.7 million.

4) *How can the treasurer's office influence state fiscal policy?*

As State Treasurer, I have a responsibility to taxpayers to advocate for fiscally responsible policies. Under the previous administration, Ohio's financial ranking was 43rd in the country. Today, it's seventh. I continue to voice my strong support for legislation that will simplify Ohio's municipal income tax system. Common sense reforms are needed to help create an environment where the private sector can grow and create jobs. Unfortunately, many small businesses, skilled laborers and entrepreneurs are wasting time and money on a municipal income tax system that is confusing, inconsistent and unnecessarily cumbersome. I also advocated for the elimination of Ohio's death tax, which I argued was a form of double taxation and was especially unfair to family businesses.

Connie Pillich – Democratic Party

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Biographical Information

<http://www.conniepillich.com/about>

EDUCATION: University of Cincinnati, J.D.
University of North Dakota, M.B.A.
University of Oklahoma, B.B.A.

OCCUPATION: CURRENT: State Representative
PAST: Attorney, United States Air Force Captain

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Veteran, eight years active duty achieving the rank of captain
Attorney who ran her own firm and practiced banking law
Member of the Financial Institutions Committee.

Questions & Answers

1) What measures will you take to assure high standards in the management of state investments?

In the Air Force there was never a Democratic or Republican way to get things done—just the right way. As a military officer with a top secret security clearance, I demanded scrupulous integrity and strict accountability from my staff; I will do the same as treasurer of state. My number one priority is to safeguard the over \$200 billion in state assets under my purview. To do that, I will hire and retain the best-qualified staff, enforce ethical business operations, and adhere to best practices in fiscal policy. I will adopt procedures to ensure that investments, contracts, and decisions provide the best benefit and security for Ohio.

2) How does your work experience and education prepare you to collect and safeguard taxes and fees for the state of Ohio? Explain.

As a military officer, I received the best leadership training in the world. As a business owner, I created jobs, made payroll, and balanced budgets. As an MBA and attorney, I helped people and businesses through financial crises. I also practiced in banking law. As a legislator, I've worked across the aisle to relieve the financial burdens of our state's hardest working citizens. For example, I introduced the Ohio Veterans Bonus, a small cash bonus for those who served in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

From my military experience, education, and business background, I learned to root out waste and inefficiency and improve operating procedures to run a highly effective organization. This is what I did in the military, this is what I did in my own business, and this is what I'll do in the treasurer's office.

3) What are your three goals for improving the efficiency of the treasurer's office?

(1) Safeguard the over \$200 billion in taxpayer money the treasurer is tasked with overseeing. There is no question that making sound fiscal decisions regarding taxpayer money is the top priority of the treasurer.

(2) Institute an independent Inspector General for the treasury. For over a decade we have seen instances of waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, and mismanagement in the treasurer's office. It's disappointing that Ohioans have only come to know their treasurers for the scandals they create. This is the office that oversees taxpayers' money, and I cannot imagine a more important place to have an independent, nonpartisan Inspector General helping prevent and resolve the problems we have seen over the last decade.

(3) Protect our pensions. The treasurer decides which banks serve as custodians over the pension funds that 1.8 million Ohioans and their families depend on. I take that responsibility seriously.

4) How can the treasurer's office influence state fiscal policy?

As state treasurer, my duty to the people of Ohio is a fiduciary one. Our state fiscal policy ought to put security first—this is the people's treasury. As treasurer, I would be the state's chief fiscal officer. My duties would include weighing in and advising on all state fiscal issues, whether they be launching new debt, refinancing existing debt, or retiring old debt; reviewing and finding ways to enhance the return on our investments; or targeting investments as economic development tools. The Treasurer's office can help protect and strengthen seniors' retirement and pension security; provide financial education for veterans; find resources for schools; teach young people how to save for their first home; help students saddled with debt; aid our farmers, small businesses, and homeowners during times of natural disasters; and promote job growth.

Candidates: Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court

Term beginning January 1, 2015

Sharon Kennedy

Candidate did not respond

Tom Letson

Address: 545 E. Town St. Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: info@tomletson.com

Biographical Information

<http://tomletson.com/meet-tom/>

EDUCATION: Machinist Apprenticeship, Copperweld Steel; BA Kent State University; JD, University of Akron

OCCUPATION: Legislator/ Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Assistant Law Director, Acting Municipal Judge, USW Workers Compensation Committee Chairman, EMT - A, National Ski Patrol, Warren City Board of Health, Father, Brother, Husband, Grandfather, Trumbull County, Ohio State and American Bar Associations

Questions & Answers

1) Do you think the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct's provisions regarding recusal should be strengthened to address instances where individuals or corporate litigants before a judge have, either directly or indirectly, made expenditures on behalf of the judge's election? Please explain.

I think that we talk out of both sides of mouths. We want to elect our Judges, but we don't want them to be part of the political process that puts them on the ballot. Unless and until the process is changed to provide complete public financing of the judicial races we are stuck with needing to raise money to let people know what their choices are. That would go a long way to eliminating the appearance of conflict when an acquaintance appears before the bench. That is not to say that Judges don't strive to be impartial in the delivery of their duties, but we are talking about perception.

2) Estimate the number of cases that you have tried and please describe the different types of cases you have tried.

I have tried hundreds of cases, mostly to the bench, mostly in Family Court or Municipal Court, some jury trials in Common Pleas and Municipal Court. Most of a lawyer's job is to try to keep their clients out of court by offering sound advice beforehand.

3) What qualities most impressed you in the judges before whom you have appeared? Describe which of these qualities you possess.

Patience, Competency, Integrity, Temperament. Those are the qualities that I have found in the Judges that I have admired. My father was an attorney so I grew up around the Bar and his friends. There were many special people that I watched all my life who taught me how to put those attributes into practice. I certainly hope that I am still learning how to reach that level I saw in my father and his friends.

Term beginning January 2, 2015

Judith French

Address: 1113 Westwood Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43212

Email: justicejudifrench@gmail.com

Biographical Information

<http://www.justicejudifrench.com/about/>

EDUCATION: Ohio State University: J.D., M.A., B.A.

OCCUPATION: Justice

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Ohio Supreme Court Justice since January 2013. Prior experience includes: eight years as appellate judge; counsel to Governor; five years as assistant attorney general, including arguments before United States Supreme Court and Ohio Supreme Court; private and corporate law practice.

Questions & Answers

1) Do you think the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct's provisions regarding recusal should be strengthened to address instances where individuals or corporate litigants before a judge have, either directly or indirectly, made expenditures on behalf of the judge's election? Please explain.

Corporations may not contribute to judicial campaigns. Individuals may contribute, but only to a limited extent. The limits on individual contributions ensure that a judge will not be influenced inappropriately. The Code of Judicial Conduct already addresses instances where recusals should occur, including where a party's relationship with the judge—for whatever reason—requires the judge's recusal.

2) Estimate the number of cases that you have tried and please describe the different types of cases you have tried.

As a Supreme Court Justice, I have considered thousands of appeals involving all types of civil and criminal matters, including the death penalty, elections, constitutional law, and attorney discipline. As an appellate judge, I authored 800 written opinions on civil, criminal, and administrative matters and participated in thousands of appeals. As a lawyer, I argued before the United States Supreme Court and the Ohio Supreme Court. I represented public and private entities before trial and appellate courts, with particular emphasis on constitutional issues and environmental law.

3) What qualities most impressed you in the judges before whom you have appeared? Describe which of these qualities you possess.

Intelligence, experience, fairness, and civility are the hallmarks of a good judge. I strive to demonstrate all of those qualities in every matter that comes before me as a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court. I also strive to demonstrate consistency, predictability, and restraint and to remember that my role as a judge is limited.

John O'Donnell

Candidate did not respond

