



2013

CITY OF AKRON

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 5, 2013

FREE

VOTERS GUIDE!

Published by the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area Education Fund



**A Message
from the
President**

Greetings!

Make sure you check your polling location before you vote. The Summit County Board of Elections has made changes, yet again, to precincts and polling locations. Some of you receive your new location during the September Primary but many did not vote in the Primary or they did not have a Primary Election.

Early voting started October 1st. You can vote in person at the Board of Elections at 470 Grant Street in Akron. Request for an absentee ballot can be made by calling 330-643-5200 or go to the Board of Elections Website:

- Application: <https://secure.summitcountyboe.com/PDFs/AbsenteeApplication.pdf>
- Polling Locations: <http://summitcountyboe.com/WebApps/pollfinder.aspx>
- Absentee Ballot Look-Up: <http://summitcountyboe.com/WebApps/avlookup.aspx>

I encourage you to use this guide whether you vote from home or bring it along to the polls. We take great pride in providing this non-partisan information to help you learn more about this issues and candidates so you can vote the entire ballot.

For more information about the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area or to make a donation to support the continued publication of this material, please visit www.lwvaa.org or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

Happy Voting!

Tina Merlitti



INSIDE: Find Out What We Asked The Candidates!

Non-partisan voting information for residents of:

AKRON, OHIO

This Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area Education Fund to provide non-partisan information about political candidates and issues, and to help citizens make informed choices at the polls. The group is solely responsible for its content.

The candidates are given the opportunity to respond to questions posed by the League of Women Voters, and to state their positions in their own words. The League, in publishing this material, neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate or political party, and does not and cannot assume responsibility for the contents of any candidate's reply.

LWVAA EDUCATION FUND 2013 VOTERS GUIDE

CITY OF AKRON GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5, 2013 • Published by the League of Women Voters of the Akron Area Education Fund

SUMMIT COUNTY ISSUES

ISSUE 1: SUMMIT COUNTY (ADM)

Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) – A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADM) Board for the purpose of mental health and recovery programs for children, adults, and families, and for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance and operation of the alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services facilities at a rate not exceeding 2.95 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 29.5 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 6 years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

League Explanation of Issue 1: The ADM Board is a local agency mandated by law to see that treatment and support services are available for adults, teens and children with mental illness and/or alcohol/drug addiction. The 2.95 mills, 6 year, renewal levy will provide 75% of the agency's operating budget. It is not a tax increase. The owner of a \$100,000 home will continue to pay \$7.50 per mo.

ISSUE 2: SUMMIT COUNTY METRO PARKS

Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) - A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Metro Parks, Serving Summit County for the purpose of the maintenance, operation, acquisition, development and improvement of the Bike & Hike Trail, Freedom Trail, portions of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, Cascade Valley, Deep Lock Quarry, the F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, Firestone, Furnace Run, Goodyear Heights, the Gorge, Hampton Hills, Liberty Park, Munroe Falls, O'Neil Woods, Sand Run, Silver Creek, Springfield Bog, Wood Hollow and other properties of the park district at a rate not exceeding 1.46 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 14.6 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 7 years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

League Explanation of Issue 2: The 1.46 mills, 7 year, renewal levy will provide for operation and development of the district's parks and trails. It is not a tax increase. The owner of a \$100,000 home will continue to pay \$44.71 per year.

ISSUE 3: SUMMIT COUNTY ZOO

Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) – A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Summit County for the purpose of operating and capital expenses for the provision and maintenance of zoological park services and facilities at the Akron Zoo at a rate not exceeding 0.8 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 8 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation for 7 years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

League Explanation of Issue 3: The 0.8 mills, 7 year, renewal levy will provide capital and operating funds for about half of the Zoo's annual budget. It is not a tax increase. The owner of a \$100,000 home will continue to pay \$23 per year.

AKRON CITY ISSUES

ISSUE 4: AKRON

Proposed Charter Amendment – Shall Section 64a of the Charter be adopted to allow the donation to Akron Children's Hospital, its designee or assignee of the City of Akron's steam and chilled water system to facilitate Akron Children's Hospital's ongoing efforts to meet the long-term health care needs of children?

League Explanation of Issue 4: Passage of this charter amendment would allow transfer of the ownership of Akron's downtown district heating plant (RES plant) from the City of Akron to Akron Children's Hospital. This will provide Children's with heating at a reasonable cost and provide reliable heating for other downtown businesses.

Arguments in favor of the issue: The loss of money on the steam plant exceeds revenue. Since 2007 the City of Akron has subsidized operations of the RES plant operations in the amount of \$28.9 million. Donation of the steam plant to Children's Hospital will insure continued service to customers.

Over 50 downtown customers, including Children's, Akron General Hospital, City Hall and County offices use the downtown district heating system.

Arguments against the issue: City will no longer subsidize heat and air for downtown buildings. This subsidy has kept the price of doing business in the downtown district low. If the steam plant is donated to Children's Hospital, the City of Akron will be a paying customer like everyone else on the system.

CITY OF AKRON COUNCIL-AT-LARGE

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014

City of Akron Council-at-large Questions

Question 1:

What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?



Jeff Fusco - Democrat

Occupation: Akron City Council At-Large and State Certified Real Estate Appraiser **Age:** 54

Address: 2117 Forest Oak Dr, Akron, OH 44312

Website: <http://fuscoforcouncil.webs.com/>

Education: Saint Vincent Saint Mary 1978, University of Akron (attended)

Training and Experience: Leadership Akron Class23, Akron Service Director 10 years (retired), Akron City Council 11 years

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

Both the budget and CSO's continue to be of concern. Loss of inheritance tax and reductions in the Local government fund equals a loss of 10 million. An unreasonable unfunded mandate will devastate many senior citizens and working poor. Creativity and a regional approach will need to be considered.

Question 2: How do you envision the role and utilization of the community learning centers?

The partnership between the city and APS has been successful. Senior citizens, community groups and many other groups have been and will use these valuable Akron assets for years to come.

Question 3: What is your position and rationale concerning food trucks?

I have been appointed to a committee to study food trucks by Council President Moneypenney. We have begun to research and study the lessons learned from other cities. We will interview subject matter experts and develop a recommendation that will best fit Akron's needs.



Karl William Johnson - Republican

Occupation: Airline Pilot/Business Owner **Age:** 53

Address: 421 Fairlawn Knolls Cir, Akron, OH 44313

Website: (Facebook) Karl Johnson For Akron City Council At Large

Education: Bachelor of Science/Aviation Science

Training and Experience: Trained in leadership, communications, human factors. Many years of experience as a business owner here in Akron.

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

1) Crime/Safety 2) Job Growth 1) I'd like the council to help facilitate the development of neighborhood watch style programs in conjunction with the Akron Police Department. Consult experts in this area to craft effective programs. 2) This is closely related to #1 in that if the city is attracting new businesses the exceeds the word limit

Question 2: How do you envision the role and utilization of the community learning centers?

The community learning centers are an underused asset. The Council should establish programs that would encourage there year round use.

Question 3: What is your position and rationale concerning food trucks?

Food trucks should be allowed in the city. The free market will work in this area. Competition is a good thing when you're in business. The restaurants downtown could use the food trucks as a means of competition. That completion forces improvement for the consumer.



Chris Kormushoff - Republican

Occupation: Photographer **Age:**

Address: 75 Waldorf Dr., Akron, OH 44313

Website: none

Education: I am a graduate of The University of Akron

Training and Experience: I have been running my own photography business since 1994.

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

My main concern for the City of Akron is EDUCATION and SAFETY. If you look at our state report card, it is quite scary only meeting 5 of 26 benchmarks. Teachers can only do so much when learning is not stressed at home. Sadly, so many of these children are —*exceeds the word limit*

Question 2: How do you envision the role and utilization of the community learning centers?

I find it amazing our tax dollars (for 30 years mind you) have paid for all these new CLC's but yet we are being charged to use and on top of that, have to provide a \$1 million dollar liability waiver. How many residents do you think are able to —*exceeds the word limit*

Question 3: What is your position and rationale concerning food trucks?

I believe everyone should have the opportunity to earn a living. My only concern with the food trucks Is their intended location. I have seen them in several cities I have visited, but they are always parked on a side road a reasonable distance from the downtown restaurants. If this —*exceeds the word limit*



Linda Omobien - Democrat

Occupation: Mental Health Administrator, Community Support Services, Inc **Age:** 60

Address: 2104 Brookshire Rd, Akron, OH 44313

Website: www.lindaomobien.com

Education: M.A. in Community Counseling & Ed.D. in progress at University of Akron

Training and Experience: LPCC-S; LSW; LICDC-CS; 39 years in social service / mental health; 20 years of Public Service experience, 16 on Akron School Board and 4 on Akron City Council, Councilwoman-at-large

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

The two urgent issues are the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project and jobs for middle class citizens. The CSO project will cost the citizens close to a billion dollars, therefore, we must find an affordable alternative. This project could generate jobs for Akron residents, an idea I strongly advocated FIRST.

Question 2: How do you envision the role and utilization of the community learning centers?

Exactly the way they were intended when I signed the Agreement as President of the Akron Board of Education for them to be utilized by the taxpayers. These facilities are used by the community for events. Perhaps, it's time to review the utilization and see if more access is needed.

Question 3: What is your position and rationale concerning food trucks?

Food Trucks are mobile concession stands that operate successfully in some communities without the risk of taking business away from restaurant owners who have invested a lot in those communities. I hope we can find a balance. There are pockets of our city where people could benefit from this business.

Linda M Robinson - Republican

Address: 1350 Evelyn Ln, PO Box 7444 Akron, OH 44306

CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS



Michael D Williams - Democrat

Occupation: Deputy Executive Director, Alpha Phi Alpha Homes, Inc **Age:** 56

Address: 1263 Country Club Rd, Akron, OH 44313

Website: www.williamsforakron.com

Education: Graduate of Buchtel High (1975), Morehouse College (Bachelor of Arts 1980) and the University of Akron Law School (Juris Doctorate 1985)

City of Akron Council-at-large Questions

Question 2:

How do you envision the role and utilization of the community learning centers?

City of Akron Council-at-large Questions

Question 3:

What is your position and rationale concerning food trucks?

If you would like to see more transparency in government,
JOIN THE LEAGUE.



City of Akron Ward Council Questions

Question 1:

What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

City of Akron Ward Council Questions

Question 2:

How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

City of Akron Ward Council Questions

Question 3:

How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

Training and Experience: Member of Akron City Council for 25 years. Served as 4th Ward Councilman (10 years) and At-Large (15 years).

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

Abandoned properties and associated crime is an issue. We must be more aggressive in removing abandoned structures and returning land to positive use (community gardens, new construction, parks). Tripling of sewer rates will price many out of their homes. Alternate sources of revenue must be used to minimize rate increases.

Question 2: How do you envision the role and utilization of the community learning centers?

The CLC's must be programmed according to the needs of the neighborhoods they serve (ex: youth / senior citizen services). Currently they are not adequately staffed to properly serve the community. Citizen input should determine programming and neighborhood organizations should be assisted by the city in accessing the CLC's (insurance, etc.).

Question 3: What is your position and rationale concerning food trucks?

Current restaurants and businesses must be protected. City government has encouraged their growth and invested taxpayer dollars in infrastructure to support private investment. Food Trucks should be only allowed at specific times and in areas that minimize direct competition with existing restaurants/businesses and serve underserved areas of the community.

CITY OF AKRON WARD 1 COUNCIL

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014

Anthony George Karam Jr - Republican

Address: 2260 Cross Creek Trl, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS



Rich Swirsky - Democrat

Occupation: Teacher

Age: 60

Address: 183 N Highland Ave, Akron, OH 44303

Website: www.swirskyforcouncil.com

Education: Bachelors Degree, Ohio University-major political science; Masters Degree, Education, University of Akron

Training and Experience: Currently Teaching Reading at Firestone High School; Former Regional Director, Ohio

Citizen Action, the state's largest consumer and environmental organization. I have a strong 20 year record championing issues such as the environment, job loss and consumer protections.

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

I will work with city officials to make sure that the sewer rate burden is shared with other cities and businesses who use our waste treatment plant. I will work to see that green infrastructure practices are implemented and that those who can least afford this will be considered. We need —*exceeds the word limit*

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

My background as a community advocate, teacher, and counselor is a good match for the city council job. I have been trained and have a lot of experience listening to problems, bringing people together and advocating for resources---- and most importantly initiating action.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

I have taught for 8 years in the Akron After School program, housed in the community learning centers. These buildings could be utilized more for adult education, by community groups like the League of Women Voters, and by city programs like the new vehicle city safety program.

CITY OF AKRON WARD 2 COUNCIL

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



James P Hurley III - Democrat

Occupation: Ward 1 Councilman (soon to be Ward 2); Small Business Owner of JP Hurley Electric

Age: 56

Address: 1227 Clifton Ave, Akron, OH 44310

Website: none RUNNING UNOPPOSED

Education: 1976 North High School Graduate, Continuing Education for Electrical Trade

Training and Experience: Councilman for 7 years, small business owner for 9 years with 35 years experience in the electrical trade

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

The sewer system is a big issue as I search for ways to reduce the cost for homeowners. With so many housing foreclosures in the city, I am working to demolish condemned houses to clean up neighborhoods, and creating green space.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

I have worked in the private sector of public service my entire life. I am a strong leader with good work ethics and have a great love for the community in which I live.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

They are a place for community to gather, to hold meetings, and use for various forms of education for our entire community.

CITY OF AKRON WARD 3 COUNCIL
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Margo Sommerville - Democrat

Address: 276 Millcreek Dr, Akron, OH 44307

RUNNING UNOPPOSED

CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS

CITY OF AKRON WARD 4 COUNCIL
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Valerie Jackson - Independent

Occupation: Educator of Akron Public Schools

Age: 49

Address: 1139 Winton Ave, Akron, OH 44320

Website: none

Education: Graduate, Central Hower High School, 1982; Graduate, Southern Ohio; College with Accounting, and Business Management Degree, 1989; Major: Education; 2003-2010; University of Akron and Ashford University.

Training and Experience: Twelve years' experience in providing customer service, and assisting teachers and personnel in education in a partnership environment.

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

I will address Housing and Education with city and government: To remodel condemned homes, provide safer homes for the elderly, and lower income families: To ensure children future, by lowering college tuition. A good education will build strong character, a good career, and pave the way for a stronger community.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

As City Council, I will strive to bring professionalism and strong leadership towards the success of our community. I have helped in Presidential elections and Community events: I received Awards for Character Counts and Letter of Commendation of Community Work, from Akron City Mayor. Affiliation: Akron Black Women Leadership Caucus.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

It is the corner stone for being the foundation of our society: To teach perseverance, inspire, encourage, and to build character. I will help promote our youths to get involved in community activities and to help stop gun violence: by getting our youths more involve with community activities.



Russel C. Neal Jr - Democrat

Occupation: Business Owner

Age: 50

Address: 476 Morely Ave, Akron, OH 44320

Website: www.vote4russneal.com

Education: Graduate of Buchtel H.S. and Ohio University with a BA in Management & Marketing.

Training and Experience: Owner of Graffiti Print Shop and (2) terms Akron City Council Ward 4. On council I chair Technology and Park & Recreation committees, and serve on Housing, Planning, Public Service and Health and Social Service committees.

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

Two urgent issues facing the city are the cost of Combined Sewer Project and stabilization of housing stock in neighborhoods impacted by foreclosures and, in Ward 4, severe flooding. I will continue to work with council, the administration and the community to determine best options to address these issues.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

My two terms on council and my ability to engaging members of the community in the process of addressing challenges that face the ward and our city are what equip me to serve the residents of the ward

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

Community Learning Centers need to become holistic learning centers where opportunities to, participate in activities and learn about what is taking place in our city are available. We need to ensure that CLC's are accessible to residents that participate in organizations that serve our neighborhoods too.

CITY OF AKRON WARD 5 COUNCIL
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Tara Mosley-Samples - Democrat

Occupation: Personal Bailiff for Akron Municipal Court Judge Kathryn Michael

Age: 42

Address: 1290 7th Ave, Akron, OH 44306

Website: www.tarasamples.com

RUNNING UNOPPOSED

Education: Attended the University of Akron, Academy of Court Reporting and Candidates for Comp. 2013 Paralegal Examinations

Training and Experience: I have worked in the legal community for over 13 years in many areas of law; which has prepared me for my work in exceeds the word limit

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

The two urgent issues facing Ward 5 are: Crime and Vacant houses which, is crippling the neighborhood and hindering Ward 5 from attracting new businesses and potential homeowners.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

I believe my life experiences have prepared me to be an advocate for Ward 5 residents and small business owners. Being born and raised in Ward 5, I understand the community. I think progression is vital to Ward 5. The ward is in need of a representative that not only knows the —*exceeds the word limit*

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

I believe in order for the CLC's to be utilized by the community we have to do away with some of the "red tape" so the community can hold various functions at the CLC's. My church has held Sunday services at East CLC for over two years and it has —*exceeds the word limit*

CITY OF AKRON WARD 6 COUNCIL

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Bob Hoch - Democrat

Occupation: Retired - Retired -Acme Fresh Market 37+ years

Age: 63

Address: 482 Amberwood Dr, Akron, OH 44312

Website: none

Education: Akron University - Associate Degrees, Business Management and Sales/ Merchandising

Training and Experience: U.S.Navy - Damage Control/ Firefighting, Store Director responsible for daily operations, budgeting, scheduling, hiring, directing work force.

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

The first is the transfer of the downtown steam plant to Children's Hospital. We need to impress the residents for voter passage so this may be accomplished. The second is the reduction of federal and state funding and finding new income money to help maintain our infrastructures.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

I had one of the best teaching environments by working at Acme Fresh Markets, the people I worked for and with there, and the customers who shopped there. I equate representing constituents to taking care of your customers. You have to satisfy them to keep them happy and coming back.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

I like the fact that the Community Learning Centers are open for public use and we need to address the liability factor so that doesn't become too restrictive. Evening continuing education classes (Stark State) at an affordable cost is an excellent start for helping residents find new avenues of training.



Shirley Ann Thompson - Republican

Occupation: Retired Supervisor In Office Services, Continental-General Tire

Age: 78

Address: 47 Kreiner Ave, Akron, OH 44312

Website: none

Education: Graduated Tripoli High School, Iowa 1953

Training and Experience: For twenty-six of my years at General Tire I supervised a very busy department , consistently hitting my departments production goals. During fifteen of these years I also held the offices of Secretary and Program

Chairman of —*exceeds the word limit*

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

The first urgent issue is all the empty business & store-front space. Small businesses need to be incentivized to locate to these spaces. The increase in crime is the second urgent issue. I have several ideas but due to the limitation of space will save those for another time.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

Being a divorced Mother of 4 children will no financial assistance , I learned the art of budgeting and stretching a dollar. In addition to C above I also organized a successful Regional Printing Association Trade Show. I have strong leadership , organizational and interpersonal skills.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

One of my ideas has to do with having an abbreviated vocational training program that someone is placed in after taking an aptitude test. The program is underwritten by companies that will have first choice of anyone who goes through the program. The buildings could be used for this.

CITY OF AKRON WARD 7 COUNCIL

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Paula A Beagle - Republican

Occupation: Retired From Barberton Municipal Court

Age:

Address: 1426 Beardsley St, Akron, OH 44301

Website: none

Education: High School: Archbishop Hoban High School; College: University of Akron: AS Data Processing & AS Legal Secretarial Science

Training and Experience: Network Administrator

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

1. Crime: I would like to see more community and police involvement. I would like to help organize Neighborhood Watches, etc.
2. Abandoned homes: I would assist in monitoring these properties to assure that proper upkeep is maintained while the City decides to either repair or demolish.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

I've served 16 years with the Summit County Prosecutor's Office and an additional 14 years serving the City of Barberton/Barberton Municipal Court as a public servant.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

I would like to see more after-school and summer activities scheduled for the children.

Donnie Kammer - Democrat

Address: 368 E Ido Ave, Akron, OH 44301

CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS

City of Akron Ward Council Questions

Question 1:

What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

City of Akron Ward Council Questions

Question 2:

How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

City of Akron Ward Council Questions

Question 3:

How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

CITY OF AKRON WARD 8 COUNCIL

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014

Gary Hagan - Republican

Address: 30 Harcourt Dr, Akron, OH 44313

CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS



Marilyn L Keith - Democrat

Occupation: Retired from Teaching 6/30/12; Ward 8 Councilwoman

Age: 60

Address: 585 Winslow Ave, Akron, OH 44313

Website: none

Education: BA in Elementary Education 1-8; Reading Endorsement K-12; Master Degree in Education

Training and Experience: The majority of my training for the position of councilwoman has been on the job. I have attended the National League of Cities 2012 Convention and Women in Municipal Government Conference in 2013.

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

The most urgent issue facing Ward 8 is defending the "quality of life" status that has been associated with this part of the city. I will have the time to institute regular on going communication with neighborhoods, identifying problems and bringing resourceful resolve to these issues in a timely manner.

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

I'm a 2nd grade teacher at Case Elementary. I have a BA in Elementary Education and a master's equivalency in Elementary Education with 24 additional graduate hours. As Director of the Akron Digital Academy, a cutting edge concept, I maintained a balanced budget while creating policies and procedures.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

Resnick School is our only CLC in Ward 8. I would like to see it used more for community gatherings and educational programs that are not presently offered at our community center. Through a survey we could identify the needs of all residents and provide age appropriate programs.

CITY OF AKRON WARD 9 COUNCIL

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014

Mike Freeman - Democrat

Address: 1914 19th St SW, Akron, OH 44314

CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS

Christopher A Miller Sr - Republican

Address: 2484 11th St SW, Akron, OH 44314

CANDIDATE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS

CITY OF AKRON WARD 10 COUNCIL

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Harry L Jenkins - Republican

Occupation: Retired US Postal Service, Clerk Akron, OH

Age: 89

Address: 725 Hansen Ct, Akron, OH 44305

Website: none

Education: East High School 1942 Grad; Akron University 1951; (Military) Gunnery Instructor

Training and Experience: US Army Air Corps 1943-1946 Sergeant; US Air force 1951-1964 Captain

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

Unemployment, especially young people; Debt - none essential projects without sure funding

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

Military and voluntary work in nursing homes; 16 years Salvation Army (League of merit) contact Capt June Cain

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

I am in favor of Community Learning Center if they stay out of politics and do not go against parents wishes



Gary L Money Penny - Democrat

Occupation: President, Akron City Council, 10th Ward

Age: 57

Address: 537 Fulmer Ave, Akron, OH 44314

Website: none

Education: Graduate of Police Executive College, Columbus, Ohio; Graduate of School of Police Staff and Command, Northwestern Traffic Institute; Graduate of National FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia

Training and Experience: Assistant Sheriff, Summit County Sheriff's Office; Chief of Police, Springfield Township; 37 Years of Law Enforcement Experience; U.S. Army

Question 1: What are the two urgent issues facing the City? How do you plan to address them?

The two Urgent issues facing the City: clearly number one is the Sewer/CSO Project. We have to focus our efforts and explore all options, finding any and all sources of revenue to fund this project other than on the backs of our residents. Issue two; expanding our safety forces.

Akron City Schools Board of Education Questions

Question 1:

What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

Akron City Schools Board of Education Questions

Question 2:

How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

Akron City Schools Board of Education Questions

Question 3:

What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

Question 2: How have your life experiences prepared you to represent your constituents?

My whole adult life has been dedicated to Public Service. Serving the needs of those in distress, conflict and victimization. Thirty seven years as an Law Enforcement Officer and 7 years as an elected official has prepared me for dealing with the needs and solutions of my constituents.

Question 3: How do you envision the role and utilizations of the Community Learning Centers?

The roles and utilizations of our Community Learning Centers has still not reached its full potential due to budgetary restraints. But as the economy comes back around we need to expand programs for our Senior Citizens as well as after school classes for our children who are struggling.

AKRON CITY SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 4 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Bruce D Alexander

Occupation: Community Probation Officer

Age: 53

Address: 2217 Thurmont Rd, Akron, OH 44313

Website: none

Education: Akron North High School “1978” and Youngstown State University, Bachelors in Health Education with minor in Marketing

Training and Experience: Training in Education, Criminal Justice, Child Protection, Board Leadership, Mental Health, Communications, Parent Education, and Child Development

Question 1: What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

Being a child advocate, having positive educational experiences and mentors who had significant impacts on my life inspires and motivates me. I want to ensure our students are reading on or above grade level, graduate college, career, and work ready and get more parent/community involvement while remaining fiscally responsible.

Question 2: How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

Teachers should be evaluated in five domains: Planning and Preparation; Classroom Environment/Management; Professional Responsibilities; Instruction and Delivery; Student Growth or Achievement

Question 3: What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

The Community Learning Centers can be used for positive student and community activities such as Extended day programs for students which includes Academic Enrichment and Extra Curricular Activities, Activities for Senior Citizens, Parent Engagement Groups and meeting places for Cooperate Partners of Akron Public Schools, and possible community board meeting —*exceeds the word limit*



Janice O Davis

Occupation: Account Manager - Bank of America (2006-Oct2013); Nformation Management - Summa Health System (1973-2003)

Age: 60

Address: 1495 S Hawkins Ave, Akron, OH 44320

Website: none

Education: Baldwin Wallace: Master’s, Healthcare Administration—2006; Argosy University: EdD, 33/60 Hours complete—Honors

Training and Experience: Applied experience using industry accepted businesses principles to successfully drive organizational transformation. Demonstrated ability to interpret and apply regulatory statues.

Question 1: What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

A desire to assist in driving academic success through effective policy and program development based on peer reviewed evidenced based research. I hope to effectively advocate for increased parental involvement, the interjection of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) concepts into teacher training and increased discretionary use of Zero Tolerance Policy.

Question 2: How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

Teacher evaluations should be based on subject knowledge, ability to engage students in the learning process, ability to effectively deliver instructions in a diverse classroom setting, evidence of effective coaching and negotiation skills, and test scores. Additionally, evaluations should include self assessment, peer assessment, administrative assessment and student/parent comments.

Question 3: What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

CLC’s should serve as homework, tutoring and social enrichment centers. Programs should be justified by demonstrating benefit to students and community. Quality performance initiatives should be in place to monitor program effectiveness. Based on findings, programs should be adjusted as needed and if ineffective, eliminated.



Dave Lombardi

Occupation: Attorney in Akron for 23 years

Age: 50

Address: 94 Kenilworth Dr, Akron, OH 44313

Website: none

Education: Walsh High School 1981; Miami University 1985 (Finance); University of Akron School of Law 1989

Training and Experience: Trial Attorney handling civil and criminal matters. Arbitrator for civil cases in Summit County Courts. Board member for Community Legal Aid; Akron Bar Association. Elder Summit Christian Church.

Question 1: What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

My two sons attending Akron Public Schools. I wish to ensure the great education continues for them, and others hereafter. The building projects have had some delays (King) that halt other projects. Also important are the issues of budget constraints, fair teacher evaluations, and the financial drain of charter schools.

Question 2: How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

Presently the move is to focus teacher ratings on the student achievement tests. While important, it is not the only factor that should be used. Teacher peer ratings and feedback from the students and their parents would prove very indicative and helpful regarding a teacher's effectiveness in our schools.

Question 3: What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

It is important to offer programs to the community using the Community Learning Centers however we need to make sure those programs are not a drain on the school system's finances.



Lisa Mansfield

Occupation: Patron Services Manager & Education Staff - Weathervane Playhouse **Age:** 46

Address: 1266 Romayne Dr, Akron, OH 44313

Website: none

Education: Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education - English and History

Training and Experience: Four year Board Member; Joint Board of Review - overseeing the school rebuilding project Instructional Policy and Student Achievement; Co-Chair Member Ohio School Board Association and Council of Urban Boards of Education 4 yrs.; Many exceeds the word limit

Question 1: What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

Having spent the last four years working through many changes and challenges in public education, I feel confident I can hit the ground running on a second term. I have a strong belief in the exciting possibilities and the positive results that public education in Akron can, and does provide.

Question 2: How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

Strong teachers are critical. APS has recently overhauled its HR, recruiting and retaining highly-qualified teachers. Teacher evaluations should consider test scores but also what teachers are able to accomplish with individual students. The complication lies with punishing teachers when their students have so many issues beyond school control.

Question 3: What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

I recently suggested that updating the APS homepage with a link to the City of Akron might clarify planning for those seeking information about CLCs. The city manages CLC usage and partners with APS in these agreements. Hundreds of non-school events are held in Akron's CLCs every year.



Veronica Sims

Occupation: Administrator **Age:** 50

Address: 396 Brairwood Dr, Akron, OH 44320

Website: none

Education: Bachelor Criminal Justice/Political Science; Masters of Public Administration

Training and Experience: Co-Chair Instructional Policy & Student Achievement; Government Affairs & Special Projects Administrator; 3rd /4th grade Instructor, Children's Ministries; Regional Facility Manager, Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities; Director, Outreach and Community Development; Executive Director, Ohio

Legislative Black Caucus

Question 1: What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

As a graduate of Akron Public Schools I am motivated by my personal experience in how a quality foundational education helps create a bright future. I will continue to build a world class district where graduates are college/career ready, 3rd grade reading is proficient, and schools remain safe and inspiring

Question 2: How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

I believe Teachers should be evaluated on their ability to successfully engage and educate children in a measurable way, through the utilization of classroom observations by both peers and superiors, and their effectiveness in engaging and working with the support systems of children.

Question 3: What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

Ensure they are advertised as welcoming community hubs where residents can gather for both educational and recreational activity. Promote intergenerational coming together by the community to encourage learning more about each other. Utilize them as safe gathering places for youth to engage in sporting events, social functions, and/or entrepreneurial explorations.



Scott Stetson

Occupation: Attorney / Professor **Age:** 44

Address: 1899 Stabler Rd, Akron, OH 44313

Website: none

Education: Bachelor's Degree - Criminal Justice - Youngstown State Master's Degree - Political Science - University of Akron JD Degree - University of Akron School of Law

Training and Experience: Ten years as an attorney. Five years classroom teaching and faculty supervision at the college level.

Question 1: What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

I have three kids in Akron Public Schools. I believe strongly in public education and public service. Akron faces unique challenges: student success, inconsistent funding, unfunded mandates, etc. These are serious issues and they require serious solutions. I have a sincere desire to tackle these issues and find collaborative solutions.

Question 2: How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

Sufficient academic progress by students during the school year.

Question 3: What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

Expansion of current, and creation of additional, community based programs. Getting the word out to the community about the programs and working with the city to ensure access.



Debbie Mairé Walsh

Occupation: Executive Director, Summit County Republican Party **Age:** 58

Address: 38 Kuder Ave, Akron, OH 44303

Website: none

Education: B.A. Bowling Green State University, 1977

Akron Municipal Court Judge Questions

Question 1:

Municipal courts now have specialty courts for offenders involving Drugs, Domestic Violence and Mental Health issues. Are there any others which would be appropriate in our municipal courts?

Question 2:

Ohio Municipal Courts have seen a dramatic increase in default judgments in collection suits against individuals and families for medical bills, evictions and rent, and other consumer debts. What can courts do to help individuals who can't afford lawyers, have their side of the case heard?

Question 3:

Should municipal court proceedings of any kind be broadcast on public access television or on the internet? Please explain your answer.

Training and Experience: Store Management and Remodel Director, Toys 'R Us Store Management & Buyer, The Higbee Company/Dillard's Buyer, Macy's Past President, Member Summit County Safe Kids Coalition Past Board Member & Member Junior League of Akron

Question 1: What motivated you to run for School Board and what do you hope to accomplish if elected?

A strong school system is vital for Akron's future. We need to ensure that every child is prepared to succeed, from pre-school through graduation. They should be prepared to enter school, prepared to learn and meet/exceed required standards, to graduate and prepared to enter college or the workforce.

Question 2: How do you think teachers should be evaluated?

I think a combination of factors including an assessment of their student's academic growth and achievement, evaluation of their expertise and performance in the classroom along with their ability to ensure/enhance student learning. Most important in the evaluation process is student growth.

Question 3: What ideas do you have for improving the utilization of the Community Learning Centers by the Akron community?

The CLC's are first and foremost for our children and their needs should be given priority. We need to ensure our children are being provided every opportunity to grow, achieve, learn and reach their fullest potential in a safe and secure environment.

AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-1-2014



Katarina Vujic Cook

Occupation: Judge, Akron Municipal Court

Address: 201 Hampshire Rd, Akron, OH 44313

Website: www.JudgeKatarinaCook.com

Education: Firestone High School; University of Rochester- BA. History & Psychology; University of Akron School of Law- J.D. 1990.

Training and Experience: Assistant County Prosecutor- 4 years; Mediator Training- General & Domestic Relations; Mediator- 2 years; Magistrate- 4 years; Judge- 3 ½ years.

Question 1: Municipal courts now have specialty courts for offenders involving Drugs, Domestic Violence and Mental Health issues. Are there any others which would be appropriate in our municipal courts?

As judge, I preside over an OVI specialty court. This court strictly monitors participants to ensure that they are engaged in treatment and are sober. In addition, we recently commenced a veteran's court to help veterans coming to our court address issues of substance abuse, depression and PTSD.

Question 2: Ohio Municipal Courts have seen a dramatic increase in default judgments in collection suits against individuals and families for medical bills, evictions and rent, and other consumer debts. What can courts do to help individuals who can't afford lawyers, have their side of the case heard?

Since taking office, I have instituted pro se procedures. Defendants are given a guide, "Representing Yourself in Court", and informed of available services, including Community Legal Aid and the ABA. I personally explain procedures during a pretrial and if a party does not appear, my court calls before proceeding.

Question 3: Should municipal court proceedings of any kind be broadcast on public access television or on the internet? Please explain your answer.

Public access is essential to improve confidence in the judiciary. Live streaming or cable programming would be a welcome addition to our local news media. "Hollywood" versions of the justice system promote misperception and undermine the public's knowledge of its courts. Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor also supports such access.



Jon Oldham

Occupation: Magistrate/ Judicial Attorney - Summit County Probate Court

Address: 996 Newport Rd, Akron, OH 44303

Website: www.oldhamforjudge.com

Education: Walsh Jesuit; Ohio University; The University of Akron School of Law

Training and Experience: Based upon my experience as a Magistrate in two courts and the breadth of my experience as a private practice attorney for more than a decade, I bring quality to our Court.

Question 1: Municipal courts now have specialty courts for offenders involving Drugs, Domestic Violence and Mental Health issues. Are there any others which would be appropriate in our municipal courts?

No. Our community is now well served by our five specialty courts. We should focus our energy and resources on strengthening our existing specialty courts in order to rehabilitate as many low-level criminal offenders as possible. This will promote public safety at the least expense to our community.

Question 2: Ohio Municipal Courts have seen a dramatic increase in default judgments in collection suits against individuals and families for medical bills, evictions and rent, and other consumer debts. What can courts do to help individuals who can't afford lawyers, have their side of the case heard?

As a Magistrate and in private practice, I have firsthand knowledge of this dilemma. We must actively encourage attorneys to provide pro bono services, place more effort into strengthening existing legal aid programs, and allow third year law students to provide supervised legal assistance to individuals in need of representation.

Question 3: Should municipal court proceedings of any kind be broadcast on public access television or on the internet? Please explain your answer.

The decision to broadcast proceedings should be made on a case by case basis. Courts remain open to the public if one wishes to observe in person. The benefits of televising proceedings include judicial transparency. The disadvantages of televising proceedings include the potential for distracting theatrics in the courtroom.

AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMMENCES 1-2-2014



Julie A Schafer

Occupation: General Private Practice Attorney

Address: 210 Hilen Rd, Akron, OH 44333

Website: none

Education: University of Akron, JD/MBA 2002; Hiram College, 1998 Summa cum Laude

Training and Experience: 11 years Practicing in Summit, Stark, Medina, Portage and Wayne county courts; Divorce, contract, civil, custody, dependency/neglect/abuse, delinquency and probate trial experience Supreme Court Mediation Training Copley-Fairlawn School Board Member – 14 years

Question 1: Municipal courts now have specialty courts for offenders involving Drugs, Domestic Violence and Mental Health issues. Are there any others which would be appropriate in our municipal courts?

A Veterans Treatment Court could address the myriad of issues that come home with our servicemen and women. 20% of veterans have mental health disorders, such as PTSD, and other cognitive impairments. Research connects substance abuse and combat-related mental illness which can lead to involvement with our Court systems.

Question 2: Ohio Municipal Courts have seen a dramatic increase in default judgments in collection suits against individuals and families for medical bills, evictions and rent, and other consumer debts. What can courts do to help individuals who can't afford lawyers, have their side of the case heard?

Mandatory mediation prior to trial is one way to hear the debtor's side of a conflict and avoid a default judgment. Offering a non-confrontational alternative to an inevitable and intimidating formal Court hearing may encourage debtors to try to less the damaging impact on their finances and perhaps avoid bankruptcy.

Question 3: Should municipal court proceedings of any kind be broadcast on public access television or on the internet? Please explain your answer.

Broadcasting some court proceedings could help to demystify how the Court system really works and correct the misperceptions perpetrated by fictional television shows that make real lawyers want to scream at the TV. Cellphones and You Tube already publicize people's indiscretions and illegal activities, broadcasting the consequences may deter undesirable behavior.



Gertrude Wilms

Occupation: Akron Chief City Prosecutor

Address: 32 Marshall Ave Apt 3, Akron, OH 44303

Website: www.wilmsforjudge.com

Education: University of Akron, JD 2001, MPA 2001

Training and Experience: For more that a decade I have been a prosecutor at the Akron Municipal Court, where I have personally prosecuted more than 10,000 misdemeanor criminal and traffic cases.

Question 1: Municipal courts now have specialty courts for offenders involving Drugs, Domestic Violence and Mental Health issues. Are there any others which would be appropriate in our municipal courts?

The Akron Municipal Court is currently reevaluating the management of all the specialty courts to ensure compliance with new mandates set by the Supreme Court of Ohio, and as the Chief City Prosecutor I am working with each of the specialty courts in this process. The speciality courts in existence exceeds the word limit

Question 2: Ohio Municipal Courts have seen a dramatic increase in default judgments in collection suits against individuals and families for medical bills, evictions and rent, and other consumer debts. What can courts do to help individuals who can't afford lawyers, have their side of the case heard?

The slow economy has created an increase in civil litigation and in particular pro se defendants. Regardless, courts must treat all parties in a proceeding with dignity and respect to make certain fair results are achieved. In certain cases referrals can be made for attorney assistance at Community Legal Aid exceeds the word limit

Question 3: Should municipal court proceedings of any kind be broadcast on public access television or on the internet? Please explain your answer.

Yes, public court proceedings should be broadcast on public access television or on the internet. The Ohio Supreme Court is encouraging all courts to embrace this trend. Unfortunately financing for the project may be prohibitive.



"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be... The People cannot be safe without information."

—Thomas Jefferson



seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

—John F. Kennedy

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not



over the White House as the President's spouse. I wish him well!"

—Barbara Bush

Akron Municipal Court Judge Questions

Question 1:

Municipal courts now have specialty courts for offenders involving Drugs, Domestic Violence and Mental Health issues. Are there any others which would be appropriate in our municipal courts?

Question 2:

Ohio Municipal Courts have seen a dramatic increase in default judgments in collection suits against individuals and families for medical bills, evictions and rent, and other consumer debts. What can courts do to help individuals who can't afford lawyers, have their side of the case heard?

Question 3:

Should municipal court proceedings of any kind be broadcast on public access television or on the internet? Please explain your answer.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Summit County Board of Elections
470 Grant Street, Akron, OH 44311
330-643-5200
SummitCountyBOE.com

MAKING YOUR VOTE COUNT

Under Ohio law, a voter is required to vote by provisional ballot rather than regular ballot if the voter does not provide required identification or isn't listed in the precinct registration book. **If a provisional ballot is cast in the wrong precinct, it will not be counted.** Here are some steps voters can take to avoid having to cast a provisional ballot:

- If you are uncertain about where to vote, call the Summit County Board of Elections at 330-643-5200. They will direct you to the proper precinct. You may also visit www.SummitCountyBOE.com/WebApps/pollfinder.aspx.
- If your precinct is located at a polling place with multiple precincts, make sure you are at the right table. If in doubt ask the poll worker to check with the Board of Elections before issuing you a provisional ballot.
- Take a form of identification with you to the polls, like a State of Ohio driver's license or identification card (make sure it's not expired), military identification, a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document issued within the past year showing your name and address.

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The League of Women Voters of the Akron Area Education Fund was created more than 25 years ago by a visionary group of local league members. As a separate non-profit public foundation, we accept tax deductible donations not only to publish and distribute this Guide, but also to support community forums, moderate candidates' nights and formal debates, and more.

This nonpartisan Voters Guide is one of the primary tools we have made available to the public for many years. Additional voter information, including an expanded form of this guide, is available at our website: www.lwvaa.org.

We accomplish a great deal with a hard-working, dedicated force of interested, committed members. However, we also require financial assistance to continue providing unique nonpartisan information. Please consider supporting the League's Education Fund with a tax deductible contribution of \$25.00 or more.

The Akron Area League of Women Voters is continuing its long tradition of encouraging informed and active participation in government. The LWVAA provides opportunities for citizens to learn about candidates and issues in a calm and considered fashion. We appreciate your support and promise to continue the nonpartisan policy that is vital to the health of our democracy.

For additional copies of this publication, call or email the League at 330-836-7079 or lwvaa@lwvaa.org



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