



League of Women Voters®

VOTERS GUIDE

For the General Election November 7, 2017

Nonpartisan Information Published as a Public Service by the
League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Shaker Heights Chapter
www.shakerlww.org

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6:30 A.M. UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

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The Local Candidates Forum on September 28, co-sponsored by the Shaker League Chapter and the Shaker Library, was videotaped and can be viewed in its entirety by going here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56Ah3-C6_mc

The forum featured 4 candidates for Shaker City Council, 4 candidates for School Board, and one candidate for Municipal Judge.

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Q. WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE OR CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

A. Any county Board of Elections (even a different county from where you live).

Any public high school or vocational school. Any place where you can renew your driver's license.

Public libraries, some government offices, the Secretary of State's office, **not the post office.**

You can also register by mail. Just pick up a form from the places listed above. You can also call your local Board of Elections (216-443-8683) or visit its websites, Boe.cuyahogacounty.us OR www.443vote.com, or the Secretary of State's Office and they will mail you a registration form. **You have to register by October 10th to vote in the November 7th General Election.**

Q. WILL I EVER HAVE TO RE-REGISTER?

A. You must always be registered at your current address, so even if you move within a county, you must notify in writing your county Board of Elections at least 30 days before an election. They will change your registration to your new address. If you forgot to change your address at least 30 days before, you may have to vote provisionally. Note: You can **change your address online** at the Secretary of State's website: www.sos.state.oh.us by **October 10, 2017** and provide your driver's license or state ID number, last 4 digits of your SS#, date of birth.

•If you move to a different county, you must fill out a new registration for that county at least 30 days before an election or update your address online as above by October 10th.

•If you change your name (for example, by marriage), notify the Board of Elections by October 10th.

•If you have any questions regarding your voting status, call the Board of Elections or visit myohiovote.com.

About the Voters Guide

Candidate information in this Voters Guide was supplied by the candidates, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the Ohio Secretary of State. Questions were selected by The League of Women Voters - Shaker Heights Chapter and addressed to the candidates. Candidates were informed that each response would be printed exactly as received. Each candidate is solely responsible for the content of the reply. Word limitations were required. Candidate responses are listed in alphabetical order.

Information and answers from the candidates have not been evaluated in any way. In publishing this material, the LWV neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate who appears here. The LWV does not and cannot assume responsibility for any candidate's reply. Candidates contacted were those on record with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections as of August 9, 2017.

Voter Identification Requirements – from the Cuyahoga Board of Elections

www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us

Voter ID - Ohio accepts a wide variety of documents for voter ID including:

- An **Ohio driver's license or state ID card** with your name and photo. The card must not be expired, but it can have an old address if registration is up to date.
- A **U.S. Military ID** with your name and photo (address not required).
- A **government ID** with your name, current address, and photo. Note that a student ID and a US passport are **not** accepted.
- An original or copy of one of the following **documents** with your name and current address: utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, pay stub, government check, or other government document. The document must have a date within one year of Election Day.

If you do not have any of the above, you may use the last 4 digits of your Social Security number, but you will have to vote a provisional ballot. It will be counted so long as the number matches your voter registration. Be sure to complete all field on the provisional ballot form.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues.

The League of Women Voters does not endorse political candidates. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age.

*To join or
to learn more about
League of Women Voters
of Greater Cleveland
Shaker Heights Chapter,
go to our website at
www.shakerlwv.org or
click on the QR code!*



Early Voting– Starts October 11, 2017 Vote by Mail or In-Person

Q. CAN I VOTE BEFORE ELECTION DAY?

A. Yes. Any qualified Ohio voter whose registration information is up to date may request and Vote By Mail (formerly known as an absentee ballot) without stating a reason. You can **vote early BY MAIL** or **IN PERSON** at the Board of Elections.

TO VOTE EARLY BY MAIL, you **must request** an application at least 3 days before the election. **NOTE this application will not be mailed to you for this election.** You can download an application from the Board of Elections website, boe.cuyahogacounty.us, request one by phone to the Board of Elections 216-443-8683, or by writing a letter to the Board of Elections. When you receive the application you will be asked for your name, address, identification, date of birth, and where you want your ballot mailed.

Acceptable forms of ID are: the last four digits of your Social Security number, your driver's license number (2 letters followed by 6 numbers) or a copy of your current and valid photo ID, military ID, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address. (*Note: A student ID, US passport, or your voter registration acknowledgement notice, that the board of elections mailed to you, cannot be used as proof of identification.*)

Your ballot will be mailed to you with directions on how to fill out the forms and the ballot. Your mailed ballot must be postmarked by the day before the election and received by 10 days after the election. The BOE will tell you how much it costs to mail the ballot and you must put adequate postage on the return envelope. It is frequently more than one first-class stamp. You or a relative may take your absentee ballot to the BOE no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

If you request an absentee ballot, but do not mail or deliver it to the BOE, you MAY vote a provisional ballot at the polls on Election Day.

Voting by mail has many advantages: no waiting in line, no need to provide any ID besides the last four digits of your Social Security number, weather is not a factor, and you don't have to worry about where to vote. You can gather information about candidates and issues and calmly evaluate your choices.

TO VOTE EARLY IN PERSON: As soon as the absentee ballot is available on October 11th, you may go to the BOE during business hours and fill in the application, immediately receive a ballot and vote. The deadline for voting early in person has changed with nearly every election. See below for a list of when the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is open for voting.

Q. CAN I VOTE IF I AM IN THE MILITARY or LIVING OVERSEAS?

A. Yes. You are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). You can request an application online from the BOE or the Secretary of State of Ohio, a designated relative can request an application for you, or you may use the current Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), available online at www.fvap.gov. The FPCA may be used both to register to vote and to request absentee ballots. All these methods provide instructions on deadlines and on how to vote. You should begin the process as soon as possible before an election.

Q. CAN I VOTE IF I AM AWAY AT COLLEGE?

A. Yes. You can follow the same application procedure described above in the vote by mail section and have your ballot mailed to you at college. Your mailed ballot must be postmarked by the day before the election - November 6th -- and received by the BOE by 10 days after the election.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2017 Early In-person Voting Days and Hours

2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44115

www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us

Voter Hotline: 216-443-8683

8am-5pm, Wednesday-Friday on Oct. 11-13 & Oct. 16-20

8am-7pm, Monday-Friday on Oct. 16-20 & Oct. 23-27; Oct 30 – Nov. 3

8am-4pm on Sat. Nov. 4

1pm - 5pm on Sun. Nov. 5

8am - 2pm on Mon. Nov. 6

SHAKER HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

SALARY: NONE

3 TO BE ELECTED

LISA CREMER

lisacremerforshakerschools@gmail.com

website: lisacremer.com

FB: lisacremerforshaker

Occupation: VP of Educational Enrichment Lomond PTO; Community Activist

Education: Education: Princeton University, Bachelor of Arts, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 2004. Boston University, Masters of Social Work, Clinical Practice, 2008. Boston University, Masters of Public Health, Health Policy and Management, 2009

Qualifications for office: I have experience working with government agencies and securing funding for research projects. I have developed programs that have successfully helped to lift up families in underserved communities. I am experienced in analyzing data and making appropriate interpretations of that data that translate to policy recommendations. I have teaching experience from working in special education in public and private schools.

Question 1: The Shaker schools recently won voter approval for a bond issue to accomplish district-wide repairs and maintenance of its buildings, postponing or rejecting a substantial project to replace the Middle School. What are your plans for that building and how will you keep the community up-to-date on how the bond funds are spent?

Thanks to the Shaker voters, we passed the levy and improvements have been made to make the middle school structurally safe. People choose Shaker schools for the wide array of academic and extracurricular opportunities and the teachers who provide these options. While we need to have a clear plan moving forward that addresses the needs of our physical structures in a financially responsible way, we also need to focus on spending money on the people and programs that enable our students to thrive. According to the Five-year Forecast, the next operating levy will be needed in 2020 for funds in the 2021 fiscal year. As a board member, I will ensure that we take ownership of that detailed, ongoing review.

Question 2: What do you consider the most important issues facing our school system?

A: One of the most important issues in our school system is developing a culture of respect and tolerance. All students need to feel safe in order to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to them. All stakeholders in the community should feel like they are able to voice their concerns and ideas.

Another chronic issue is communication. While implementing changes, we must respect all the voices that comprise our community. We must be proactive by anticipating potential concerns in the schools and community. Once we make a decision, we must communicate clearly and thoughtfully and follow up as necessary.

Furthermore, our diversity is our greatest strength but also our greatest challenge. We must ensure that we are providing the best educational experiences for ALL children by eliminating systemic barriers in a mindful way.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, public education is taking a beating now, and this is of great concern. We need to advocate not only for less testing and more financial but also in support of public education, a cornerstone of democratic societies.

Question 3: How can you as a board member affect district policies that govern areas such as (1) diversity of the teaching staff to reflect the student body, (2) the inclusion and comfort of all students, no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity?

(1) This is a national problem. As a board member I will be intentional in our search for excellent teachers from all backgrounds. Students need to see mirrors of themselves in our schools. Our hiring policies and reputation must be attractive enough to recruit excellent teachers of all backgrounds. At the same time, we must continue to nurture and celebrate our diversity.

(2) Inclusiveness and excellence are the hallmarks of our community. As a board member, I will work to create a welcoming and safe learning environment by being a leader in LGBTQ policies and by continuing to support the implementation of restorative justice practices throughout the district.

Question 4: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

Libraries are extensions of our schools, providing services that meet our unique community's needs. At the same time, we have precious resources in Shaker Heights, and the tax burden is a concern. Joining the county system is a difficult decision, but it is our duty to explore this option. Our three taxing authorities must collaborate moving forward to make informed decisions in the best interests of our community that stay true to our Shaker values.

SHAKER HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

SALARY: NONE

3 TO BE ELECTED

ALEX LISTON DYKEMA
alexforshaker@gmail.com

website: alexforshaker.com
Facebook: @alexforshaker

Occupation: I am an attorney and consultant working with non-profits to build their organizational capacity.

Education: Brown University-BA; Lewis and Clark Law School-JD

Qualifications for office: My professional skills and experiences have been extremely helpful during the last four years and my experience as a Board member, Board President, member of the Board's Policy, Facilities, and Finance and Audit Committees, as well as the Mayor's Financial Task Force have refined and enhanced my skills for a second term.

Question 1: The Shaker schools recently won voter approval for a bond issue to accomplish district-wide repairs and maintenance of its buildings, postponing or rejecting a substantial project to replace the Middle School. What are your plans for that building and how will you keep the community up-to-date on how the bond funds are spent?

It is wonderful that our voters supported our recent levy request allowing us to address our most pressing needs. With that secured, any future discussion of the Middle School should be within a broader Master Planning framework including issues of enrollment, educational needs and funding. An active facilities committee of teachers, administrators and community members with expertise in design, facilities and fundraising will be critical. The information collected in the recent facilities process should help develop a long-range plan, define the goals for the building, identify ways to leverage private dollars for portions such as a pool, auditorium and a science facility for all our K-8 students. To be successful, I believe any proposal must clearly identify the educational benefits involved, long term costs savings, private and corporate donations, and how the proposal fits within a broader master plan for the Shaker Schools and the City's developments such as the Van Aken District.

In terms of the current funding, staff presented a draft list of priority projects at the September Board meeting. This will be refined based on cost, capacity, and the need to maximize the impact of the funding. Along with regular Board updates and public postings, each year the community should receive an update of the proposed work and its completion so everyone is aware of how their dollars are spent and the impact it has on our students and their learning environment.

Question 2: What do you consider the most important issues facing our school system?

The Shaker Schools must address two key issues: expanding academic achievement for all students while maintaining our historic strengths and breadth of education; and developing our long term economic sustainability.

Taking concrete steps so that every student reaches their full potential benefits not only each student but the entire District. This furthers our Mission and pushes us to ensure that all students graduate with the tools for a successful life, whether through college or a career. We must build on our accomplishments and our renewed efforts to achieve this goal. These include; curriculum enhancement, professional development, constructive engagement with families and students, and focused efforts such as the Equity Task Force, to identify ways to enhance success for all students from our highest achievers, to those who struggle and all in-between.

To sustain that academic success, we must build a solid financial future. With the limits of our State funding system and potential changes to federal tax codes, the coming years will require a clear understanding of our financial options and a creative approach to collaboration and funding potentials. We have had significant success in trimming our spending while preserving our programs, but new efficiencies will be harder to find. We must collaborate with the City and Library and seek private and corporate donations where possible in a continuing effort to reduce future levies and lengthen our levy cycle.

Question 3: How can you as a board member affect district policies that govern areas such as (1) diversity of the teaching staff to reflect the student body, (2) the inclusion and comfort of all students, no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity?

Through its policies, the Board sets the tone and direction of the District. Towards this end, we recently revised our policy manual to comply with state law and to ensure it reflects our goals and aspirations. As an example, our prior non-discrimination policies did not expressly include protection from discrimination based on "sexual orientation and gender identity." They now do.

Similarly, while the Board should not be intimately involved in the hiring of teachers, it should set guidelines. We include that "broad cultural interests, mature judgment, a variety of experiences, and an enthusiastic approach to the challenges of life are other factors considered in the selection of teachers. To the greatest degree possible, each school's staff shall include experienced Shaker teachers, teachers new to the District, both male and female teachers, and teachers from varied cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds..." (Policy GCD). This Board policy affirms the importance of breadth in our staff and encourages hiring the best workforce possible to meet the needs of all our students.

The Board should also ask how policies are met and act to ensure that our students and staff feel comfortable. As an example, through the creation of the Equity Task Force, the Board has authorized and encouraged a deep discussion of the barriers that may exist within our District. These discussions reflect our policies and will foster greater inclusion and success for our entire student body.

Question 4: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

The Library Board is an independent entity tasked with responsibility for the library and its future. They have notified the School Board of their intention to move forward with a levy to address their needs as an independent library. The Library passes their levy requests through the School Board to place them on the ballot and, as with any levy, the final decision rests with the voters of Shaker Heights.

The School Board has limited discretion in its review of the Library’s decision, but as with any school levy, the School Board and public should be fully informed. Therefore, the School Board directed its Finance and Audit Committee to review the proposal and provide its expert review. This simply provides more information to the Library, the School Board and ultimately the voters if a levy request comes before them. This allows the School Board to exercise its fiduciary obligations without impinging on the independence of the Library Board. It also leaves the final decision whether to remain independent or join the county system directly up to the voters.

This process highlights our need for institutional communication between all of Shaker’s taxing entities. It would benefit everyone if we had a formal structure which ensured direct communication between the Library, City Council, Mayor’s office and the Schools. This should not limit our autonomy, but rather enhance communication and understanding between the taxing entities which impact Shaker the most.



YES! I want to support this 2017 Voters Guide & League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland • Shaker Heights Chapter by making a tax-deductible donation

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check number: _____ Check amount: _____

Mail this form and check made out to *LWVGC-EF* (put Shaker Chapter on the memo) to Shaker Voters Guide, c/o Meg Weingart, 13610 Larchmere Blvd, Shaker Heights, OH 44120 or go online at *lwvgreatercleveland.org* and click donate and direct your gift to LWV Greater Cleveland Education Fund, Shaker Chapter

SHAKER HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

SALARY: NONE

3 TO BE ELECTED

AYESHA BELL HARDAWAY

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website: hardawayforshakerschools.com

Facebook: @ayeshabellhardawayforshaker

Current occupation: Law Professor

Education: Shaker Heights High School, 1993; B.A. The College of Wooster, 1997; J.D Case Western Reserve School of Law, 2004

Qualifications for office: My personal and professional background has helped prepare me to serve on the Shaker School Board. In my different professional roles, I've seen the heights young people can reach when our educational systems succeed, and the depths they can fall to when these systems fail. I have been a Shaker student, a Shaker parent, the spouse of a Shaker teacher at one time, and a volunteer both at my children's schools and on District committees. I believe the combination of these unique perspectives will allow me to better represent the diverse points of view of Shaker residents. In volunteer positions, such as serving on the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and as the General Counsel for the Olivet Housing and Community Development Corporation, I've learned how a Board can govern, and most importantly, how it can lead.

Question 1: The Shaker schools recently won voter approval for a bond issue to accomplish district-wide repairs and maintenance of its buildings, postponing or rejecting a substantial project to replace the Middle School. What are your plans for that building and how will you keep the community up-to-date on how the bond funds are spent?

Passing May's bond issue established the basic framework for what is possible over the next several years at the Middle School: we know what the Middle School needs and we now know how much money we have to work with. Spending these funds should be guided by the same general principles: maximizing the impact of every dollar and finding ways to reduce ongoing operating and maintenance costs, while creating the best-possible learning environments for all students and staff.

I learned how important improving communication with the entire community and engaging more residents in creating academic successes were when I worked on the communications portion of the District's 2014 Strategic Plan. Communicating about bond funds needs to go beyond keeping the community up-to-date. The community needs to be a partner in the oversight of the project. At every stage residents should have clear expectations for what is being done, how much it will cost, and when it will be finished. We can accomplish this by insisting on: proactive transparency – making decisions in public and letting the public “check our work”; setting and meeting clear expectations for all parties – including contractors – about the information we will collect and communicate; dialogue – so that we listen as much as we talk.

I would like to explore creating a regularly updated “dashboard” that summarizes graphically the important information about the project and shows where the project stands at any given moment.

Question 2: What do you consider the most important issues facing our school system?

A The two most important issues facing our schools, in my mind, are:

- 1) Raising more students to the level of academic success Shaker is known for, to create more equitable outcomes for everyone, and,
- 2) Ensuring Shaker schools maintains and builds upon its long history of academic excellence through sufficient funding from a healthy tax base and supportive community.

In the past, we have often treated these issues as unrelated or at odds – as if education was a zero-sum and for one group to succeed another group had to lose. But the truth is that for Shaker these goals are interdependent and must be treated as such.

Shaker is an inclusive community that provides opportunity for all through its excellent public school system. During the course of more than 30 years of attendance, engagement, and service in our district, I've learned that inclusion and opportunity are Shaker's fundamental differentiators and our competitive advantage. People move here and invest here because of our promise of inclusion, academic excellence, opportunity that our schools provide. The better we are at delivering these things for all students, the more attractive we become to potential residents who will strengthen our tax base by choosing Shaker as their home. By helping more students take advantage of Shaker's promise, without taking away from those who are already succeeding, we can create a virtuous cycle that addresses both of these critical issues.

(question 3 and 4 on next page)

Question 3: How can you as a board member affect district policies that govern areas such as (1) diversity of the teaching staff to reflect the student body, (2) the inclusion and comfort of all students, no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity?

From my perspective, diversity and inclusion are the minimum, base-level goals that any public organization/institution should meet. While diversity and inclusion remain important priorities, Shaker Heights, with its rich history of integration and diversity, should also work toward higher goals.

Our district and the board must now aim to ensure that our leaders, administrators, staff, and students identify their unintended and implicit biases that affect the health and success of our community. This will help the district see student differences as valuable assets to our learning communities and will help foster a commitment to eliminate obstacles to educational success. As a board member, I will be committed to supporting the district throughout this process. It will undoubtedly present challenges; some conversations will be difficult. But a community like Shaker, which is built on a set of common interests and values, can work through these issues in healthy, respectful, ways. Working to remove cultural biases and barriers will also help us diversify our teaching staff and achieve inclusion and comfort for all students. There is no magic number of diverse staff members we should hire. In my experience, the best solution to this problem is to walk the talk. If Shaker shows it's serious about creating an authentic, inclusive, and successful educational environment, even more like-minded, highly qualified professionals will want to join us.

Question 4: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

The School Board's primary role in governing Shaker Library is to appoint the members of its Board, so, first and foremost, we must continue to recruit talented, committed residents to govern the library on the community's behalf, trust them to do their jobs, and hold them accountable if they don't. The Board of Trustees must carefully analyze the impact either choice will have on our community.

We also need to stop reducing this issue to a discussion of taxes alone. Shaker voters don't support local taxes because we like being taxed. We do it because we like what those taxes pay for and think they matter. As with any asset, what matters most about Shaker Library is not just what it costs, but what it's worth.

Shaker Library is one of the best libraries in the country. It ranks in the top 2% of the roughly 1,400 libraries with similar budgets. Nearly half a million people visited our library in 2016 and more than 31,000 people are library card holders.

If we are going to consider inclusion in the county library, we need to ask the right questions in the right order and work with the Library board to answer them. We need to know if our current approach is worth it. Are we getting enough value from our investment? How important is that value to the people who receive it? If it's not worth it, can we get better value elsewhere? And can we base any decision to purchase library services elsewhere on a full and accurate assessment of the benefits, costs, and risks of doing so?

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues. The League of Women Voters does not endorse political candidates. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age.

*To join or
to learn more about League of Women Voters of Greater
Cleveland Shaker Heights Chapter, go to our website at
www.shakerlwv.org or click on the QR code!*



SHAKER HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

SALARY: NONE

3 TO BE ELECTED

HEATHER WEINGART
friendsofheatherweingart@gmail.com

Website: heatherforschoolboard.com
FB: @heatherforschoolboard

Qualifications for office: My family and I have lived in Shaker for the past 10 years. Our children attend Woodbury and Shaker Middle School. Utilizing my business skill set I have successfully and productively served our schools in several capacities including various PTO roles and Presidencies, PTO Council President, Chair of A Night for the Red & White and Chair for the successful 2017 \$30 million capital bond issue. I have implemented several community building, outreach and fundraising programs like the Chromebook education sessions to educate parents on our transition to a Google District, Senior Clap Out, and placing the Woodbury Bell at the front of the school with a new paver garden and more. I look forward to using my energy, experience, focus and commitment to work for you and our children on the Shaker Heights City Schools Board of Education.

Question 1: The Shaker schools recently won voter approval for a bond issue to accomplish district-wide repairs and maintenance of its buildings, postponing or rejecting a substantial project to replace the Middle School. What are your plans for that building and how will you keep the community up-to-date on how the bond funds are spent?

We can successfully, with community support, replace the Middle School building if we continuously communicate the need and the story to our community. We need to provide opportunities that engage all community members. This directly connects them to our schools, even if they do not have children currently enrolled. Advertising tools, like banners outside construction projects pointing out our tax dollars at work, lends credibility to the Board's intentions and direction. Constant outreach, including electronic updates, town hall meetings, and one on one relationship maintenance, will organically spread news of how and when dollars are being spent and managed.

Question 2: What do you consider the most important issues facing our school system?

The most important issue facing our school system is perception versus reality in reference to the quality of education being provided. We are often questioned by stakeholders regarding information that does not paint an accurate picture of our schools. Misinformation and misunderstanding affects our conversations from equity to state report cards to athletics. We can work to offset this with a comprehensive, overarching approach of communicating and collaborating with key messengers and messages in each part of our community. We can better promote the unique and successful work being done in our schools by developing and nurturing strong bonds with our entire community; our realtors, our senior citizens, empty nesters, private school families, etc.

Question 3: How can you as a board member affect district policies that govern areas such as (1) diversity of the teaching staff to reflect the student body, (2) the inclusion and comfort of all students, no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity?

Our Board of Education, Administration and teachers must mirror the values we uphold in our community. The makeup and policies of the Board should reflect the population we educate and represent. Our policies and financial decisions should support and encourage continuous evaluation and expansion of our academic offerings and social environment to be inclusive of everyone. As a Board Member I will work alongside our Administrators to continue current initiatives like the recruitment and retention of African-American teachers at all grade levels, female stem teachers and male elementary teachers of the highest quality. The Board should model and support an atmosphere of open mindedness and acceptance and expect the same from the Superintendent in the daily management of the District.

Question 4: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

The Shaker Public Library has been a community treasure since 1937. The right decision for the future of the Shaker Heights Public library rests in striking a balance between a legacy of Shaker independence and the long term financial responsibility of that legacy. With any important decision, all the facts should be considered. I agree with the Library Board of Trustees that providing a letter of intent to the Cuyahoga County Public Library for the purpose of gaining insight as to the CCPL's intentions after acquiring SHPL could be misleading to the public and CCPL. The library should go on the May ballot and allow voters to decide if they wish to continue locally supporting an independent school district library. If the levy fails, the Board of Trustees should reconsider merging with the CCPL.

SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

SALARY: \$10,440

3 TO BE ELECTED

SARAH MEGENHARDT

sarahmegenhardt@sarahmegenhardt.net

Website: SarahMegenhardt.com

FB: SarahMegenhardt4Shaker

Occupation: Stay-at-home mom

Education: BA in Psychology

Qualifications for office: My experience in non-profit management has helped me understand complex issues facing a diverse community, manage and allocate funds, and to skillfully find collaboration and compromise when needed.

Question 1: What factors do you see as critical to achieving lasting economic growth for our city?

Most of us agree that in order to achieve lasting economic growth for our city we need to diversify our tax base by shifting some of the burden from residents on to business. Any good plan requires a thorough understanding of the past; how did we get here, the present; what are the details of our current situation, what are our obstacles and opportunities? From a historical perspective, a city whose reputation was founded on being known as a bedroom community, ultimately that meant that practices were developed that were not conducive to encouraging business. The city continues to require a rather strict ratio of food sales to alcohol sales when negotiating with potential new restaurants. Restaurants make much of their profits from alcohol. As a result of this policy, that likely has been around awhile, we lost at least two new businesses that initially wanted to open in Shaker, but ended up in Cleveland Heights, instead. There is another, often overlooked potential area of growth: home businesses. We do not have the space to build a large corporate office building, but we can encourage entrepreneurial residents who wish to run their businesses out of their homes. Shaker is filled with smart, enterprising individuals, let's listen to their needs, offer them more support, and do our best to remove any unintentional barriers we may place in their way. Finally, the question of achieving lasting economic growth and the next question of attracting new residents are linked.

Question 2: Shaker Heights has a high tax rate relative to neighboring communities with similar amenities. How can Shaker attract new residents?

Some important deciding factors residents cite when choosing where to call home are: Sense of Place, Diversity, and Shared Values. We can attract new residents by focusing our efforts in three main areas:

Sense of place: To create a sense of place we build on the unique assets Shaker has in its housing stock and design of our city. It's exciting to consider that the Van Aken District may provide a town square, a gathering place for residents to meet and connect.

Diversity: When I talk to young people they want urban living, and diversity. Where else in Greater Cleveland can you have the rich diversity of our city and have good, high quality schools? Many people choose Shaker over Solon or Beachwood precisely because of our socioeconomic, ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity.

Shared Values: Young people who are potential Shaker residents care about the environment. Establishing ourselves as a leader in green initiatives is an effective marketing tool to attract new residents. We can implement a thoughtful and robust sustainability plan for Shaker, doing our part to transition to a clean energy economy. We can become a 'green city' and market ourselves as such. We can position ourselves as a community that recognizes the impact it has on the health of our environment. Not only will we have a concrete positive impact, but will be deliberately creating our identity as a forward thinking community.

Question 3: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

Our library system is currently efficiently run, progressive in its programming and responsive to the needs of our community. During a recent email exchange with a high ranking library official, I was told, "The library hasn't been on the ballot for 10 years and hasn't increased its millage in 20 years. Since the last levy, which renewed the existing 4 mills, actual dollars received for property taxes has declined 18% and state funding has declined 19%. Rather than ask for additional taxes, they cut the budget to live within their means, including reducing staff by 16%." These numbers show that the library has not been a drain on our resources. Becoming part of the County Library system actually means initiating the process to dissolve Shaker Library. We are

SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

SALARY: \$10,440/YEAR

3 TO BE ELECTED

TRES ROEDER
tresroeder@gmail.com

FB: voteroeder
www.tresroeder.com

Education: BA Economics - University of Illinois, MBA in Strategy, Marketing and Finance - Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University

Current occupation: Founder and President of Roeder Consulting, a professional services firm with expertise in project and change management. Author of two Amazon best-selling books on leading people through change.

Qualifications for office: Member of City Council – 2014 to present. Shaker Heights 21st Century Government Task Force – Founding and current Chair. Northeast Ohio City Council Association – Vice President. Shaker Heights Development Corporation – Board Member. Mayor’s Economic Development Task Force - 2013.

Question 1: What factors do you see as critical to achieving lasting economic growth for our city?

A: Shaker Heights requires a growth plan I’m calling “Shaker 2030.” This concept has come out of numerous conversations with Shaker residents, leaders, business owners, real estate agents, and others. Shaker's most recent overall strategic plan is now 17 years old. It's time to update our shared vision for Shaker Heights and to focus that vision on how to grow. Shaker residents want to grow the commercial tax base, improve collaboration, and increase property values. The first phase of The Van Aken District is a good start and I’m proud to be a part of it. A vibrant commercial corridor can be built in the Chagrin/Lee area too. As part of Shaker 2030 we will study why people move into Shaker, why they leave, and what to do about it. A growth plan will clarify our goals for the future. Financial growth is certainly part of the equation but there's more to Shaker than financial goals. How can we grow to be more sustainable? How can we make our neighborhoods even more beautiful and welcoming to all? Shaker 2030 will be a collaboratively-created growth plan focused on the next 10-15 years. It will define what Shaker wants to be by the year 2030. The output will be a clear vision for Shaker Heights that will inform more tactical decisions at the city and school.

Question 2: Shaker Heights has a high tax rate relative to neighboring communities with similar amenities. How can Shaker attract new residents?

A: Shaker 2030 (see above for details) is the cornerstone of our financial future. Before making major financial decisions we must update our 17-year-old strategic plan and develop a community-driven consensus on what the future should look like. Once Shaker 2030 is complete we will know which areas to invest in, and which areas might be good candidates for re-thinking. In the meantime, we must continue to identify opportunities to lower cost. When I first ran for City Council in 2013, I promised to find ways to maintain or improve city services at a lower cost. We have had a number of successes. One result is outsourcing our jail to Solon. We are saving money -- and hours devoted to public safety have increased by enabling officers to spend more time policing and less time on jail-related activities. With my ongoing commitment to financial sustainability, and the clarity of purpose that will come from Shaker 2030, I will be at the forefront of managing cost while investing in the areas that will please and retain current residents and attract new residents.

Question 3: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

A: A library is a vital component of the Shaker Heights ecosystem. We benefit from the most highly-educated population in the county and one of the most highly educated in all of the United States. Modern libraries are hubs of knowledge with multi-media, meeting places, and various community-building programs and events. Shaker residents will be faced with the decision to invest additional money into their current library system, or to save money and join the renowned county library system. I understand there are various perspectives in the community and appreciate different ideas. The question above specifically asks "how should we determine whether it (the Shaker Heights Library) remains independent or joins the county ...". It may turn out that the best way to resolve this issue is to let you, the residents of Shaker Heights, vote on what you think is the best path forward. All of us in government work for you ... so it would be appropriate if the final decision on this matter was yours.

SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years SALARY: \$10,440/YEAR 3 TO BE ELECTED

ANNE E. WILLIAMS

friendsofannewilliams@gmail.com

FB: friendsofannewilliams/

Education: B.A. Political Science, University of Colorado; M.A.L.S. Library Science, Rosary College; J.D. Loyola University
Current occupation: Shaker Heights City Council Member; Melamed Communications, VP

Qualifications for office: During my first term as a City Council member I have served in the positions listed below. Working with other council members, city staff and residents on city committees is a key function of a council member. Through this teamwork, voices are heard, information is shared, issues are explored and solutions are developed to benefit the community. City Committees: Safety and Public Works, Neighborhood Revitalization (Chair), Recreation and Health, Communication and Marketing (former Chair), Tree Advisory Board, Sustainable Shaker Task Force, Deer Advisory Task Force (Chair). Regional Boards: Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce, Shaker Lakes Nature Center

Question 1: What factors do you see as critical to achieving lasting economic growth for our city?

Shaker Heights is transitioning from the purely residential bedroom community envisioned by the Van Sweringen brothers to a community with an expanding commercial base. This thoughtful transition, necessary for sustained economic growth, has been a focus of the city since the Strategic Investment Plan was drafted in 2000. The Van Aken District is creating momentum as additional dining, retail, cultural, educational, recreational and residential options come on line over the next year. And this is just the first phase. Planned later phases add condominiums and an office tower increasing our tax revenue over the long term. The success of the district is predicated on the city's demonstrated ability to form public/private partnerships, design creative financial incentives, and write successful grants such as the awards that help fund the reconstruction of the Chagrin/Warrensville intersection.

The momentum created by the district will help further development along the Chagrin/Lee Corridor. Leveraging the work of the Shaker Heights Development Corporation and the businesses located at the Dealership to increase commercial development will further diversify our business base.

Finally, maintaining our high level of city services, repairing our aging infrastructure, supporting city educational, recreational and cultural resources and preserving our neighborhoods are additional factors necessary to help attract and retain businesses.

Question 2: Shaker Heights has a high tax rate relative to neighboring communities with similar amenities. How can Shaker attract new residents?

Vibrant neighborhoods are vitally important to attracting and retaining residents as people of all ages look for beautiful, diverse, walkable neighborhoods that are close to public transit. We are fortunate to have such neighborhoods. Our attention to fulfilling the goals identified in the 2015 Housing and Neighborhood Plan – preserve high quality housing and increase cohesiveness, desirability, attractiveness and stability in the neighborhoods – will only increase our success in attracting residents.

One specific goal in the plan is the development of infill housing. We have over 80 vacant lots in the Moreland neighborhood and it has been difficult to attract developers/builders/individuals to build homes. But as an outgrowth of the international infill design competition the City held earlier this year, we now have developers who are interested in building affordable, market rate, owner occupied infill housing. And the process is just beginning. Diversifying the housing stock with first floor masters will appeal to downsizing seniors. Young adults will appreciate increased focus on walkable neighborhoods, public transit and biking.

Finally, the continuation of high quality City safety and public works services, ongoing repair and maintenance of our aging infrastructure, support of our schools, library, recreational and cultural institutions will not only help attract but retain residents.

(question 3 on next page)

Question 3: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

As a resident, I enthusiastically support the Shaker Public Library. I have concerns about joining the county system: will the main library remain an anchor in the Moreland area? Will we retain Bertram Woods? Will losing Clevnet make a significant impact on access to material? It is not my role as a city council member to make this decision but I have heard the concerns of our residents over the tax burden they shoulder. There is no question there would be a small reduction in taxes if we join the County system. But is it worth it? Will we gain additional hours, resources and services? We don't have the facts to measure the impact if we give up our independence.

I applaud the library board's extensive review of 7 options in the facilities study. However, the lack of information from the county precludes a thorough analysis of the option to join the county system. Given that the Shaker library anticipates putting an operating levy on the ballot next year and there is an organized group of residents pushing to join the county system, it's time to have all the facts in hand. If the Shaker and County Library Boards undertake a study to determine impact on our community, residents could make an informed decision. Such a study is not unprecedented; in 2010 the Baldwin-Wallace College Community Research Institute conducted a study of the idea of East Cleveland joining the County System after a request from both boards. In the end, East Cleveland remained independent.

WHO IS ELECTED WHEN IN OHIO

The Secretary of State puts out a Voter Information Guide every year with this information. It is available free from the Secretary of State, any county Board of Elections, and libraries.

In every even-numbered year, Ohioans elect:

- All members of the U.S. Congress (2 year terms)
- All members of the Ohio House of Rep. (2 year term)
- Half of the members of the Ohio Senate (6 year term)
- Some members of the State Board of Education (6 year term)
- Two Justices of the Supreme Court (6 year term)
- Some Court of Appeals Judges (6 year term)
- Some Common Pleas Judges (6 year term)
- Some County Judges (6 year term)
- Some County Council members (4 year term)

In some even -numbered years, Ohioans elect:

- United States Senator (6 year terms)
- Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (6 year term)

In even-numbered years divisible by four, Ohioans elect to 4 year terms):

- United States President & Vice-President
- Half of the Cuyahoga County Council
- Cuyahoga County Prosecutor

In even-numbered years that are not divisible by four, Ohioans elect to 4 year terms:

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- Auditor of State
- State Treasurer
- Cuyahoga County Executive
- Half of the Cuyahoga County Council

In odd-numbered years, Ohioans elect:

- Municipal officers
 - City and village mayors
 - Members of council
 - Other officers depending on charter
- Township trustees and clerks
- Local Board of Education
- Municipal Court Judges

SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

SALARY: \$10,440/YEAR

3 TO BE ELECTED

ROB ZIMMERMAN

rzimmerman@beneschlaw.com

Website: reelectrobzimmerman.nationbuilder.com

FB: [CouncilmanRobZimmerman/](https://www.facebook.com/CouncilmanRobZimmerman/)

Education: B.A. Political Science, cum laude with university honors, The Ohio State University, 1988. J.D., The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, 1991. Chief Justice of the University Court

Current occupation: Attorney and Partner with Benesch, Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff. Chairperson of Public Law Practice Group and Vice Chairperson of Litigation Practice Group

Qualifications for office: Member of Shaker Heights City Council since 2006. Vice Mayor (2014-2016). Council's representative on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals since 2012. Member of Finance Committee since 2008 and served as Chairperson 2010-2012. Past Chairperson and member of Safety and Public Works Committee.

Question 1: What factors do you see as critical to achieving lasting economic growth for our city?

A combination of a strong vision and decisive action by our Shaker government, in partnership with our great residents and others who want to live, work and enjoy themselves here. Shaker envisioned itself as an idealized garden community. But it was not intended for everyone. Over time we have embraced change and opened our hearts and doors, making us a diverse community open to all. Shaker's original vision also did not include business--we were a bedroom community for people to live, not to work. During my time on City Council, this too has changed. We have aggressively sought to diversify our tax base and make ourselves "open for business." The centerpiece is the opening of a "Downtown Shaker" at the Van Aken District next summer. Phase I includes retail, dining, office and residences. I have been intimately involved in this project as Council's representative on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals and we are already working on plans for next phases of the project. We are also making significant investments along the Lee Road corridor adjacent to Cleveland. This is critical to growth and also to stabilizing our neighborhoods in South Shaker. The projects involve public-private partnerships with all stakeholders making contributions to the benefit of all. Shaker government will continue to maximize efficiency and promote conditions conducive to growth. We have come a long way in our 100+ years and the best is yet to come!

Question 2: Shaker Heights has a high tax rate relative to neighboring communities with similar amenities. How can Shaker attract new residents?

It's a value proposition, plain and simple. If people believe they receive value for their tax dollars, they will move to Shaker and stay here. If they don't they won't. This reality informs everything we do in city government and it's not just about attracting residents, but also retaining them. The majority of Shaker's city budget is funded through local income taxes. Our income tax rate is higher than some but lower than others. Yes our property taxes are high and our schools depend on them as does the city, to a lesser extent. It's because of the overall tax rate that the city must do what it does best--provide quality core services. We demand and deserve it. Our public safety and public works staff are dedicated and committed to our residents. We must also maintain and improve upon our most unique community assets--our beautiful green spaces and housing stock. Lots of people live here and pay more for doing so because of the simple beauty that is Shaker Heights. That's an amenity special to us and we must keep it that way and do even more. The opening of the Van Aken District is itself a draw to new residents and a benefit to our current ones. Soon you can try your skills at a rock gym, enjoy a craft beer and a good meal, connect with old friends and do some shopping all in a brand new place. And, if you like, you can live there too! We must also find new ways to engage and connect with our residents. Our people are our best assets.

Question 3: How should our community approach the future of the Shaker Heights Library--how should we determine whether it remains independent or joins the county system?

By a thoughtful community dialogue that includes our leadership and residents. Shaker is one of the most educated communities in the nation. It's a point of tremendous civic pride. The Shaker Library, in service to our highly educated population, has been a very valuable community asset through the years. Fiscal challenges along with aging and obsolete buildings have brought this question to the forefront. While the City owns the main library building and leases it to the Shaker Library, the City does not make decisions for the Library (or the schools for that matter) about how their buildings and other assets and resources should be used. The Shaker Library has its own form of government and public accountability. Nevertheless, we all share a common responsibility--maximizing the benefit that all of Shaker receives from its civic investments. So this type of decision deserves a thoughtful and open dialogue that includes community leadership, like City Council. I will do my part as I have been--by listening and learning. I have been and will continue to engage with the Library leadership and other stakeholders. No matter what, I am confident that Shaker will address and ultimately decide this issue like it does others--in a thoughtful and respectful way that takes into account the views of all for the benefit of all.

SHAKER HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL JUDGE

TERM OF OFFICE: 6 years

SALARY: \$125,850 /YEAR

1 TO BE ELECTED

KATHY “K. J.” MONTGOMERY

kjmontgomery@shakerheightscourt.org

(note: these questions provided by [Judicial Votes Counts website](#))

Education: Cleveland Marshall College of Law (1974-1977) Juris Doctor – Niagra Moot Court Best Brief (1974), Order of the Barrister. Heidelberg College (1970-1974) B. Music – Salutatorian of the class; Valedictorian of School of Music, Senior Laureate, Tau Mu Sigma Honorary, Tau Mu Sigma Scholarship recipient, Mabel Kinley Award. Mentor High School (1970) 10th class standing

Question 1: List your judicial experience (courts and years).

1994–Present, Shaker Heights Municipal Court Judge, Single-judge court with an annual caseload of 12,000 cases serving Beachwood, Hunting Valley, Pepper Pike, Shaker Hts. and University Hts. Other experience: 1994-present, Cuyahoga County Corrections Planning Board, Suburban Court Representative-Board approves Common Pleas Court funding for various court programs. 2003-present, Cuyahoga County Mental Health Court Initiative Participant: Collaboration of all mental-health-associated courts, service providers, law enforcement and others to deliver services to defendants with mental illness, Founding member (2003) Chairperson (2004–2012). Author of CCMHCI Mental Health Procedures for Municipal Judges Handbook. 2003-present, Cuyahoga County Justice Management Institute Commission and Felony Pilot Program (Justice System Reform): Organized to implement improvements to the justice system in Cuyahoga County, Founding member (2003). Suburban Court representative (2008 – present) 2008 – 2011, VAWA Coordinated Community Response Initiative Judicial Rep: Violence Against Women’s Act Initiative with John Carroll University to develop educational programming and awareness of sexual assault on college campuses. 2010-present, Cleveland Re-entry Leadership Coalition: A collaborative effort associated with the ADAMHS Board bringing together social services, adult parole office prison officials, legal aid and others to provide guidance to felons leaving prison. (Read more at [JudicialVotesCount](#))

Question 2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

Prior to being elected judge, my private practice included handling criminal defense and civil matters of many kinds. At the same time, I held the various municipal positions of prosecutor, law director and tax administrator thus experiencing the law from the side of the municipalities and the public I represented. Raising my own children, I was involved with the Shaker Schools and experienced the diverse and amazing children who would become the next generation of leaders. I had the good fortune to be raised by a single mother who believed a woman could do it all. She did. At the same time she sang opera for President Truman, she cleaned houses and sewed clothing for others. Together, we roofed and painted houses and changed the car oil. I’ve additionally been fortunate to be an ovarian cancer survivor of 27 years and have watched as alcoholic family members maintain sobriety. I believe this amazing journey has assisted me to always value the person before me – to listen, to learn and, in my judicial role, always attempt to strike the right balance of protecting the public, meting out appropriate punishment to deter future bad behavior, and to provide guidance and access to available resources in order to educate, treat addictions and address issues of mental illness with the goals of improving social behavior and preventing recidivism.

Question 3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

This will be my last term as Judge of the Shaker Heights Municipal Court. There is much work in progress and I would like to continue to serve this constituency and the criminal justice system with that work. The many committees on which I serve stand to improve the criminal justice system not only in this court district but county and state-wide dealing with so many important issues like domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, fast and effective alcohol and drug treatment, access to mental health care services, and much more. Protecting our neighborhoods, maintaining our housing stock and educating our youth are of utmost importance locally. I ask to continue to work with your police and elected officials to make Shaker the best court that it can be. Continuing to learn while sharing the wisdom acquired in my 43 years in public service is my personal goal.

STATE BALLOT ISSUES

2017 General Election Ballot Issues League of Women Voters Explanations, Pros & Cons

The summaries of the ballot issues were prepared by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund. The pros and cons listed for each issue are abbreviated versions of the arguments put forward by the respective issue campaigns. The title listed for each issue is the official title assigned by the Ohio Ballot Board.

Issue 1 is an initiated amendment to the Ohio Constitution. There are three ways to amend the Ohio Constitution: proposal by the General Assembly; proposal by the people through an initiative petition; or by constitutional convention. **Issue 2** is an initiated statute. There are two ways to enact a statute in Ohio: legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor; or proposal by the people through an initiative petition. In both cases, proposals submitted to the voters must be approved by a simple majority.

Will appear on the ballot as “STATE ISSUE 1: Rights for Crime Victims”

Generally known as Marsy’s Law or “Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights”, this initiative would alter the state Constitution to require that crime victims be notified and consulted on developments in their cases.

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

A **YES** vote means approval of the constitutional amendment.

A **NO** vote means disapproval of the constitutional amendment.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 90 days after Election Day.

League Explanation of Issue 1:

Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights

Issue 1 (Marsy’s Law) will alter the state constitution to significantly expand the rights of victims in Ohio. The law would ensure that crime victims have a meaningful role throughout criminal and juvenile justice systems. It would provide crime victims with specific constitutional rights, including the right to be treated with fairness and respect for the victim’s safety, dignity, and privacy; to be notified about and present at proceedings; to be heard at proceedings involving release, plea, sentencing, disposition, or parole of the accused; to a prompt conclusion of the case; to reasonable protection from the accused; to be notified about release or escape of the accused; to refuse an interview or deposition at the request of the accused; and to receive restitution from the individual who committed the criminal offense.

Marsy's Law is named after Marsy Nicholas, a California college student who was stalked and killed by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. One week after her death, her mother and brother Henry walked into a grocery store where they saw the accused murderer. The family had no idea that he had been released on bail. [Dr. Henry T. Nicholas](#), brother of Marsy, is the key backer and proponent of Marsy’s Law. Marsy’s Law initiatives have been passed in California, Illinois, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota (see <https://marsyslaw.us/about-marsys-law/marsys-story/>).

There is already language addressing rights of crime victims in the Ohio constitution which voters passed in [1994](#). However, Marsy’s Law would replace it with language that, as described above, would expand the existing rights of victims and would establish new rights for victims.

Pros:

1. This proposed law will increase the legal rights and privileges of victims.
2. Marsy's Law would replace the 1994 Ohio Victims' Rights Amendment, which victims' rights advocates said has been unenforceable.
3. The proposed law would ensure that victims are informed when the accused offender is released from custody.
4. It will inform crime victims of their rights. (continued on next page)

State Ballot Issue 1, continued

Cons:

1. The amendment would override state law, eliminating judges' abilities to weigh the rights of victims and defendants.
2. Victims are already protected by 1994 Ohio Victims' Rights Amendment in the constitution.
3. The amendment would allow crime victims to directly file an appeal, overstepping the decisions of prosecutors.
4. Victims could refuse to be interviewed or to turn over pertinent evidence or testimony.

PROPOSERS: [Marsy's Law](#) for Ohio is leading the campaign in support of the initiative.

OPPOSERS: As of our publication deadline, no organized opposition has formed.

State Ballot Issue 2

Will appear on the ballot as “STATE ISSUE 2: To require state agencies to not pay more for prescription drugs than the federal Department of Veterans Affairs and require state payment of attorney fees and expenses to specific individuals for defense of the law”

Prohibits the state from buying any prescription drug from a drug manufacturer for a price over the lowest price paid for the drug by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

A **YES** vote means approval of the Act.

A **NO** vote means disapproval of the Act.

If approved, the proposed Act will take effect immediately after Election Day.

League Explanation of Issue 2:

The Ohio Drug Price Relief Act

Issue 2 would limit the amount the state and state agencies could pay for prescription drugs. This Act is designed to restrict the amount that any state agency could pay for drugs, tying it to the price paid by the VA. The VA negotiates drug prices with companies and typically pays 20 to 24 percent less than other agencies for prescription drugs. Specifically, it would forbid state agencies to enter into any purchasing agreement with drug manufacturers unless the net cost of the drug is the same or less than that paid by the VA.

State agencies would not be allowed to pay more than the VA pays for a particular medication. These state agencies include, but are not limited to, the Ohio Department of Aging, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Insurance, the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (the program for people with low incomes or disabilities).

The bill will only impact those who receive drugs paid for by the State, not those with any other type of coverage. If adopted, the proposed statute would affect only those associated with the above mentioned state agencies - roughly 4 million Ohioans. The Act would not apply to those who use private insurance, Medicare, or other non-state-provided coverage - approximately 7 million Ohioans.

Pros:

1. Drug costs are the main driver of rising health care cost. There is an urgent need to control costs while maintaining access to needed medications.
2. Too many Ohioans must choose between the basic necessities of life and paying for their medications.
3. There is an indirect benefit to taxpayers as the state would save an estimated \$536 million per year on drugs. This could free up some substantial money that the state could use for other programs. (continued on next page)

State Ballot Issue 2, continued

Cons:

1. The Act does not define some important terms, such as “drug,” “state,” “ultimate payer,” and “net cost.”
2. The Act does not address pricing of drugs that are not purchased by the VA and creates costly, complex purchasing arrangements.
3. Pharmaceutical companies might respond to passage of the Act by a) negating existing discounts and rebates, b) raising prescription prices charged to non-covered entities and individuals, and/or c) raising prices charged to the VA.

PROPOSERS: [Yes on Issue 2](#), also known as Ohio Taxpayers for Lower Drug Prices, is leading the campaign in support of the initiative.

OPPOSERS: [No on Issue 2](#), also known as Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue, is leading the campaign in opposition to the initiative
Further Information:

A similar proposition (Proposition 61) appeared on the California ballot in 2016. It was defeated. More information on [California Proposition 61](#).

[Analysis from Vorys Healthcare](#) Advisors commissioned by Ohioans Against the Deceptive Rx Issue, the campaign opposing the proposal.

[Analysis from Case Western Reserve](#) University professor commissioned by Ohio Taxpayers for Lower Drug Prices, the campaign supporting the proposal.

KNOW YOUR POLITICIANS and HOW TO REACH THEM

Local

Shontel Brown, Cuyahoga County District 9, through Dec. 2018
Phone: 216-698-2023; Fax: 216-698-2040
www.council.cuyahogacounty.us
E-Mail: sbrown@cuyahogacounty.us

Armond Budish, Cuyahoga County Executive, through Dec. 2018
2079 East 9th Street
Cleveland, OH 44115
Phone: 216-443-7178
www.executive.cuyahogacounty.us

Meryl Johnson, Ohio School Board District 11, through Dec. 2020
2880 S. Moreland Blvd, #403
Cleveland, Ohio 44120
Phone: 216-561-1396
E-Mail: meryl.johnson@education.ohio.gov

State

Janine Boyd, Ohio House District 9, through Dec. 2018
77 S. High St., 10th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-644-5079; Fax: 614-719-0009
www.ohiohouse.gov/janine-r-boyd

Sandra R. Williams, Ohio Senate 21, through Dec. 2018
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-466-4857
www.ohiosenate.gov/williams

John Kasich, Governor of Ohio, through Dec. 2018
Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-466-3555
www.governor.ohio.gov

National

US Representative Marcia Fudge, Ohio District 11, through Dec. 2018

| | |
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| Washington, DC Office: 2344 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: 202-225-7032; Fax: 202-225-1339 www.fudge.house.gov | District Office: 4834 Richmond Road, Suite 150 Warrensville Heights, OH 44128 Phone: 216-522-4900; Fax: 216-522-4908 |
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US Senator Rob Portman, through Dec. 2022

| | |
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| Washington DC Office: 448 Russell Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3353 www.portman.senate.gov | District Office: 1240 East 9th Street, Room 3061 Cleveland, OH 44199 Phone: 216-522-7095 |
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US Senator Sherrod Brown, through Dec. 2018

| | |
|---|--|
| Washington DC Office: 713 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-2315 Toll Free 1-888-896-OHIO (6446) | District Office: 801 W. Superior Ave Ste 1400 Cleveland OH 44113 Phone: 216-522-7272; Fax: 216-522-2239 www.brown.senate.gov |
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HELPFUL WEBSITES



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS of GREATER
CLEVELAND-
Shaker Heights Chapter**
www.shakerlww.org

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS of GREATER
CLEVELAND-**
www.lwvgreatercleveland.org
216-694-8108

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - OHIO
www.lwvohio.org
877-598-6446

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD
OF ELECTIONS**
2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland
44115
www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us
Voter Hotline: 216-443-8683

**OHIO SECRETARY OF
STATE**
www.sos.state.oh.us
myohiovote.com
877-767-6446
www.olvr.sos.state.oh.us

HELPFUL SITES FOR CANDIDATE AND VOTING INFO

VOTE411.org – LWV online voters guide

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections

www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us or
www.443vote.com 216-443-8683

Check your registration, what districts are you in,
request Vote By Mail application, other information

MyOhioVote.com website to check and update voter
registration, look up polling place, request Vote
By Mail application

Websites to evaluate judicial candidates

www.judge4yourself.com for Cuyahoga County
candidates - ratings of judicial candidates based on
interviews with four local bar associations
blogs.uakron.edu/judicialvotescount/
- a new website covering the state of Ohio

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