



League of Women Voters of Marion, Ohio

2015 Voter Guide



P.O. Box 752; Marion, Ohio 43301-0752

Presented by: **The Marion Star**

GENERAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

League of Women Voters of Marion publishes this information to neither endorse nor reject the views of any candidate, nor to promote or campaign against any of the issues.

League selected the questions. Questionnaires were sent only to

contested candidates.

Candidates were informed that their responses would be printed unedited, exactly as submitted and that each candidate would be solely responsible for the content of his/her reply. Responses to questions were cut if the candidate

exceeded the word limit. **League did not correct or change any candidate responses.**

This publication has been issued by the League of Women Voters of Marion to provide a forum for all candidates. We thank the candidates who responded to our

questionnaires and made this publication possible.

The printing and distribution of this Voter Guide is funded by the generous contributions of and to the League of Women Voters of Marion, Ohio and The Marion Star.

Local Offices

CANDIDATES:

MAYOR

One to be elected

Term: 4 years • Salary: \$60,000



JEAN HOFFMANN

ADDRESS: 671 Virginia Ave, Marion, OH 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:
Northwestern Mutual Financial Representative

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: *(25 word limit)*

Albion College, BA; CLU® & CASL® conferred by The American College of Financial Services; League of Women Voters, City Recreation Board, City Council At-Large.

QUESTION: *What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)*

The single most important challenge facing our community is making it known, again, for being a great place to live, work and play. To achieve this goal I will provide solution-focused leadership to: 1) Push back on the neighborhood creep, cutting off tentacles of the invading drug culture. 2) Clean up the physical appearance of Marion's downtown, renewing a sense of pride in our citizens. 3) Apply best practices in managing the City's funds, heeding performance audits to ensure efficient use of personnel and equipment and putting proper accounting systems in place pursuant to the State Auditor's recommendations.



SCOTT SCHERTZER

ADDRESS: 920 Forest Lawn Drive Marion, OH 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Mayor of Marion, OH

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Graduate of University of Toledo Campaign experience with Mary Ellen Withrow, John Glenn and Sherrod Brown City Councilman At-Large Mayor of Marion

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

Building a strong economic base to support our community is imperative. There are approximately 2,500 open jobs in our area right now. Marion needs a trained, viable workforce to fill vacant jobs. Unemployment is at our historical average of 5.5%. Qualified workers put us on the path toward economic prosperity. As Mayor I support our educational institutions who are preparing work ready students to fill jobs that exist today and in the future. This focus will begin the journey forward to resolve matters of social concern in Marion



CHRISTOPHER P. CULP

ADDRESS: 797 Congress St, Marion, Ohio

PARTY: Independent

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Business Management With Hilton Hotels. =Sales/Revenue Management with Hilton Hotels.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

Most important challenges in our community: Heroin and other illegal drugs. Proposal to address the issue: Increase the police force; "tighten the belt" of the city elected officials to add funds into programs and city operations we need; such as more police on the streets. #2. Bringing revenue into the city. Proposal: Reopen the city jail; instate a "pay for stay" for non violent offenders. Increase revenue by helping with over crowding of the Marion Multi-county Jail. #3 Jobs in the local economy. Reach out to bring new jobs; such as "green energy", solar power, and wind generation. #4 Community [exceeded word limit]

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

One to be elected

Term: 2 years • Salary: \$6,381.12



DAVID R. EDWARDS

ADDRESS: 1072 Bahama Dr. Marion Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Customer Service Representative

PARTY: Democratic

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Associates from MTC Computer Networking, Supervisor in the Navy (6) and Eaton (24), training in problem solving, conflict resolution and customer service.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

The obvious answer is the drug problem in our community however this is a symptom of a budget that has been dramatically reduced the past several years. We must continue to bring more businesses to Marion to increase our budget, find ways to trim spending, and apply for grants aggressively. Increasing our budget will allow an increase in safety services which then will enable our law enforcement to combat the drug problem and associated problems more effectively. Increasing our budget may allow us to direct some funds towards drug awareness education and a local rehab facility.



DR SCOT GRAY

ADDRESS: 858 Vernon Heights Circle; Marion, OH 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Chiropractor

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Doctorate of Chiropractic, Bachelors in Human Biology, Past-President of the Marion Rotary Club, District Director and Board Member of the Ohio State Chiropractic Association.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

The biggest challenges of our community are Quality of Life, Taxes, and being a Business Friendly Community: 1. We need to improve quality of life by getting more active on fighting the drug problem by penalizing those that are caught by our Police. Our police are doing a great job, risking their lives every day, just to see the criminals they catch "let out the back door" on to the streets. 2. Our taxes have been raised twice in the last few years. We need to be more financially responsible and cut taxes where we can to put that money [exceeded word limit]

CITY COUNCIL: First Ward City Council

One to be elected

Term: 2 years • Salary: \$6,381.12



RALPH CUMSTON

ADDRESS: 1060 Bahama Drive Marion Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Service Manager

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Former GM World Class Technician, Fixed Operations Director, General Manager and Service Manager at Columbus Dealerships.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

The most important challenge is to be prepared for business opportunities for Marion. We continue to work to improve safety forces, infrastructure, and industrial parks with rail access and highway access. Government cannot create jobs in the private structure we can only provide the resources that businesses need and desire. We have in part created Dual Rail Park, Airport Industrial Park, and Williamsport Rd bypass from St Rte. 23 to Ste. Rte. 95 through cooperative partnerships with federal, state and local governments. Together we will continue to foster the growth for our city.

**JILL LIPPERT**

ADDRESS: 820 Fairwood Ave, Marion, OH 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Secretary & CSR at Speedway

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Graduated in 1995 from Lakota High School

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

Drugs, lack of employment, curb appeal, sewage issues, the list goes on and on when it comes to challenges we face. All I can say is this, I will do everything in my power to address and resolve all the issues as needed. I truly have a passion and desire to help mold this town into the potential many see in it. Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. We are a city on our knees in desperate need of change. Let's make it happen.

CITY COUNCIL: Third Ward City Council

One to be elected

Term: 2 years • Salary: \$6,381.12

**TANNER HALE**

ADDRESS: 874 Bellefontaine Avenue, Marion, Ohio, 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Student at THE Ohio State University double-majoring in Political Science & Economics, Part-Time at Speedway.

PARTY: Republican Party

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Graduated from Marion Harding High School, Member of West Side Neighborhoods Association, Volunteer for the Sexual Assault Prevention Network, Central Committee for Marion County Republican [exceeded word limit]

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

The most important challenges is finding legitimate ways to help the citizens of Marion who are mentally ill and face drug addiction and finding them the best help possible and at the lowest cost. We need to ensure our city has a balanced budget and that our police and fire departments are given the tools necessary to fully do their jobs. Champion Marion city services to allow them to work at better rates and work to reduce wasteful spending. Work to raise property values and keep our roads/sidewalks clean and to fill potholes. Improve the quality of life for the [exceeded word limit]

**MIKE THOMAS**

ADDRESS: 974 Woodrow Ave

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Retired after 37 years at GTE/Verizon

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Marion Harding High School, graduated 1961 Army Security Agency 1964-68 President Marion AFL/CIO 20 years Elected 3rd Ward City Council 1995

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

I am always available for the constituents of the 3rd Ward to address any concerns they might have within the city, either by telephone or meet with them in person. I have always made the phone calls to the proper departments to assist them, and followed up until the issue was resolved.

CITY COUNCIL: Fifth Ward City Council

One to be elected

Term: 2 years • Salary: \$6,381.12

**LESLIE CUNNINGHAM**

ADDRESS: 248 Cummins Ave Marion Ohio

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Field Coordinator SA Comunale

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

I graduated from Delaware Christian High School in 1995. I entered the workforce immediately out of high school and worked up to management positions.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

I believe that we have a serious drug problem in Marion. Unfortunately it is only getting worse not better. I believe we need agencies to come together to assist with this problem. We also need to support our local Police Department. We need to help these addicts who desire to receive help, in hopes that they can be rehabilitated and

enter/reenter the work force. I also would like to encourage financial growth by making the City of Marion appealing to outside business owners. We CAN clean up the streets and make Marion prosperous again.



JOHN SMITH

ADDRESS: 254 South State Street

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Operations Manager, E Life Brokerage

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

BA The Ohio State University MFE Ohio University MBA University of Notre Dame My experience includes over 30 years in military service, past experience on [exceeded word limit]

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

I believe the most the important challenge facing Marion is economic development. A strong economy can reduce a number of the issues facing Marion. As a City Council member I can continue to insure tax revenue is spent as effectively as possible and services provided by the city of Marion meet the highest standards.

CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

Three to be elected

Term: 2 years • Salary: \$6,381.12



SCOTT K. CRIDER

ADDRESS: 278 East Center Street Marion, Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Retail Sales Specialist, Marion City Councilman

PARTY: Democratic

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Ohio State and Harding High School graduate with sales and management experience in small business, advertising, non-profit programming, and preservation contracting

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

We must work collectively and simultaneously to improve opportunities that focus

on our city's strengths as a caring community to resolve challenges. Our efforts linking education and job-training for current and future job growth need to be paramount in improving our regional economy to national/world-wide status while expanding our safety forces, maintaining and improving our city services, streets, infrastructure and property owner assistance. I will continue listening, researching and developing ways to reasonably and effectively implement solutions that enhance Marion's image, safety, stability, and protection of our tax-payer dollars.



JOSH DANIELS

ADDRESS: 1093 Edison Ave. Marion, Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Real Estate Developer, Construction and Excavation contractor

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit) Marion Tech 1994 Ohio State University 1999 (Bachelor of Economics) Training and Experience: U.S. Navy Board of Elections 2001 Commissioner 2006 Councilman 2010

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

Urban blight can be addressed by balanced planning and incentives that promote investment. Examples would be the promotion of the CRA, elimination of sewer connection fees, clearing legislative barriers that would allow transference of titles to abandoned homes. A program expanding of the city's demolition program would promote neighborhood revitalization. Increased police protection will help combat the drug trade, theft and violence. Maintaining adequate fire protection and EMS so response times are minimized. Lastly, holding elected and appointed officials accountable thus insuring public contracts are bid fairly and with costs in mind.



REBBECA A. GUSTIN

ADDRESS: 623 Concord Ave., Marion, OH 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Retired Teacher/ Council at-Large

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

BA from OSU; Master's Degree from Mt. St. Joseph (Cincinnati) 35 years teaching for Marion City Schools; Six years on City Council.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

I would first like to tell our citizens that Marion is changing! We have made great strides facing our challenges of drug abuse and need of jobs. Our policemen and

League of Women Voters of Marion is so grateful for generous donors who help make our work possible.

They include: Anonymous, Beth Babich, Ted and Bronwen Babich, Sara and Larry Babich, John Bruno, Carroll's Jewelry Store, Bob and Judy Finney, Verne Hart Insurance, Ernest and Barbra Hetrick, Jean Hoffman in honor of Betty Davis, Joan and George Kasotis in memory of Aris Kasotis, MD, Ronald and Effie Laipply, Ann C. Lowe, Al and Ingrid May, Peacock Water, Elizabeth Roseberry, Sims Brothers, Jim Slagle, Snyder Funeral Homes, Dr. Thomas F. Wagner DDS, Jo Ann and Dan Zimmerman

firemen numbers have been expanded to try to reduce the problems that come with drugs. We have approximately 27,900 jobs available in Marion County. Our next step is to train our citizens so they can fill those job vacancies. With the help of all of the community our education facilities are targeting the education they provide to fill these much needed jobs. The key has been hard work and cooperation.



EDGAR (BUD) LAYNE JR.

ADDRESS: 415 South Grand Avenue

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Small Business Owner – Layne's Lawn Care and Marion City Schools – Maintenance Custodian

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Harding High School graduate with experience in customer service, business organization, church leadership roles and organizing charity events.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

I feel the important challenges facing Marion are poverty, lack of good paying jobs, and drug addiction. If elected, I propose that we make our community attractive to new business by cleaning up the abandoned homes and beautifying our streets. Recruiting big business and providing on the job training for individuals could help fight poverty. I also feel that there is a great need for education and rehabilitation for those affected by drug addiction. None of this can happen without a team effort. I will represent the people by working together to make Marion an even better place to live.



KEVIN NORRIS

ADDRESS: 973 Colonial Ave, Marion, OH 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Self Employed. Owner of Norris Grocery and The Tailgate Bar & Grill

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Graduated in 1997 from River Valley High School. Attended The Ohio State University until my sophomore year when my father became ill.

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected. (100 word limit)

Marion's most important challenges are to grow our economy, add more jobs, strengthen or civil services, lower taxes, address the drug epidemic, and help recovered addicts and individuals with felonies the opportunity to get a job. We can do this by offering businesses tax incentives to invest in Marion. More business means more jobs and more tax dollars to strengthen our civil services, lower taxes, and spend money on drug prevention and recovery. We also need to offer incentives for businesses to hire recovered addicts and individuals with felonies and give them a second chance to fulfill the American Dream.

CITY AUDITOR

One to be elected

Term: 4 years • Salary: \$60,500



KELLY CARR

ADDRESS: 1031 Richmond Avenue

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

City Auditor

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

16 years' experience working with budgets, grants, collection and administration of taxes, contracts, payroll, account receivable and payable, bonds and investments. CPIM certified.

QUESTION 1: Why is the Auditor's job important and what abilities do you have that would make you an excellent auditor? (50 word limit)

The Auditor manages all finances for the City. I have the experience to run an effective and efficient operation. I completed the first ever Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the City and received an award for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the National Government Financial Officer's Association.

QUESTION 2: If elected, what are your 3 top priorities for your term as Marion Auditor? (50 word limit)

I have and will continue to implement cost saving measures by working with vendors on direct pay, this will improve the speed of processing payments, reduce costs and the possibility of fraud. Open up your access through the Community Development Portal. Continue transparency with comprehensive annual reports.



DONALD SMITH

ADDRESS: 1201 Old Pond Drive, Marion, OH

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Retired Attorney, formerly employed by the Legal Aid Society of Columbus

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Began to practice Law in 1974 in Pennsylvania and 1997 in Ohio, giving up Pennsylvania license in 2005, and retiring from Legal Aid in 2013.

QUESTION 1: Why is the Auditor's job important and what abilities do you have that would make you an excellent auditor? (50 word limit)

My degrees in Economics, Law and Taxation, together with my experience working with a town council and regulatory bodies prepare me for this position to act as the watchdog of your tax dollars and ensure their proper allocation to the various departments.

QUESTION 2: If elected, what are your 3 top priorities for your term as Marion Auditor? (50 word limit)

Address the Noncompliance issues raised by the State Auditor, including proper allocation of income tax receipts. Establish a Disaster Recovery Plan, as repeatedly recommended by the State Auditor. Properly certify the availability of funds prior to

the purchase commitment or follow the statutory exceptions.

CITY LAW DIRECTOR

One to be elected

Term: 4 years • Salary: \$85,071



RAY GROGAN

ADDRESS: 264 S. Seffner Avenue, Marion, Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Assistant Marion County Prosecutor

PARTY: Republican

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Law Degree: Ohio Northern University B.A., Political Science: State University of New York, College at Cortland 2009-2015: Private practice attorney 2013-present: Assistant Marion County Prosecutor

QUESTION 1: Why is the Law Director's job important and what abilities do you have that would make you an excellent Law Director? (50 word limit)

The Law Director is the City's lawyer, representing the City in all civil matters and prosecuting misdemeanor offenses. I have experience prosecuting felony cases in trials and appeals in my current job as an Assistant Marion County Prosecutor and I have handled many civil cases in my prior private practice.

QUESTION 2: If elected, what are your 3 top priorities for your term as Marion Law Director? (50 word limit)

1. I will prosecute misdemeanor offenses more aggressively. 2. I will use the full power of the office to focus more attention on quality of life issues such as nuisance abatement. 3. I will reduce the Law Director's salary by \$20,000.00 per year, which can be used for first responders.



MARK RUSSELL

ADDRESS: 1190 Blois Dr., Marion, Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

City Law Director

PARTY: Democrat

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

Your elected City Law Director working for you 1996 - present Assistant Law Director 1992-1996 River Valley High School Ohio University Ohio Northern Law School

QUESTION 1: Why is the Law Director's job important and what abilities do you have that would make you an excellent Law Director? (50 word limit)

Marion's foundation is our neighborhoods. As your Law Director I have a proven record of: holding criminals accountable, achieving the highest conviction rates in the State, fighting for You. Achieving real results by implementing innovative program like the Nuisance Abatement Task Force which eliminated over 200 nuisances from Our neighborhoods.

QUESTION 2: If elected, what are your 3 top priorities for your term as Marion Law Director? (50 word limit)

Holding criminals accountable. Protecting Our neighborhoods. Fighting to keep your hard earned money in Your pocket. I have a proven record: convicting drug addicts, forcing them to treatment, increased conviction rates from 70% to over 93%, reduced Office budget by over \$78,000.00, facilitating good jobs. I appreciate your continued support.

MARION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

One to be elected

Term: 4 years • Salary: \$12,346.08



LARRY BALLINGER

ADDRESS: 1262 Skeawood Dr., Marion, OH 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

Retired former business owner

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

A life-long resident of Marion County, graduated from Marion Harding High School, and now retired from being a business owner for over 35 years in [exceeded word limit]

QUESTION: What are the most important challenges facing Marion Township and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected? (100 word limit)

A challenge facing the Marion Township is keeping our firefighters, our heroes, trained and equipped in serving the township. Our properties need to be kept up to enhance our community, hence love thy neighbor. Another challenge facing the Marion Township would be in keeping on top of road conditions. I'm plain simple honest and work hard at what I

TAKE YOUR CORRECT ID TO THE POLLS!

Examples

A government photo ID (Ohio Driver's License or State ID showing either your current or former address, as long as the ID has not expired.)

- * Military ID
- * Copy of a current utility bill
- * Bank statement
- * Paycheck
- * Government check
- * Government document showing your name and current address.



Note: If you are a registered voter but don't have any acceptable form of ID when you come to the polls, you still have a right to cast a provisional ballot.

For more information contact the Marion County Board of Elections at 740-223-4090 or www.marionelections.com

do. Depending on the issue I plan on making a difference as a township trustee. I have a heart for my community and it shows.



LYNNIE BIRDSONG

ADDRESS: 305 Pearl Street, Marion, Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:
State of Ohio as a Correction Officer

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)

My education includes MBA in public administration with degrees in business and finance. I have 8 years business management experience, 20 years public sector experience.

QUESTION: *What are the most important challenges facing Marion Township and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected?* (100 word limit)

Trusting elected officials to make good decisions that influence constituents lives and taxes. Tax payers have a right to fair and transparent rule of law. The township must work well with other levels of government. Government shall protect property rights. Our voters in American are dissatisfied with how our government works. Approachable elected officials are an important first step. An active voter or constituent should have access to the public decision making process. All levels of government whether municipality, county, state or federal shall approach matters of citizens in a responsible way. Protecting property rights by fair and balance approach.



TIMOTHY L. COMBS

ADDRESS: 379 Siesta Drive Marion, Ohio 43302

CURRENT OCCUPATION:
Retired American History /Government teacher at Marion Harding

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
Fourteen years: Marion City Council Ten years: Marion Library Board

Eight years: Marion County Board of Elections Ten years: Marion Township Board of Zoning Appeals

QUESTION: *What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected?* (100 word limit)

State funding cuts Issues involving properties Maintaining the Fire Department Work with the township Association and it's legislative people to convince state legislators not to cut vital funds. Dealing with property matters such as tall grass,etc. , the township needs to use the legal tools it has to deal with this concern. The end result would be to bring such properties up to acceptable standards. We have a good fire department that is supported by the people thru fire levies. We need to continue the departments high standards.



ROBERT L. STUMP

ADDRESS: 1195 BROOKPARK RD, MARION, OH

CURRENT OCCUPATION:
CURRENTLY OWNER AND PRSIDENT OF SENIOR SERVICES INSURANCE AGENCY, INC., 196 S MAIN ST. , MARION, OH

PARTY: REGISTERED REPUBLICAN

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND/OR EXPERIENCE: (25 word limit)
GRADUATED FROM CRESTLINE HS 1962 TWO TOURS OF DUTY IN VIET NAM IN THE US NAVY 1962 TO 1966, BASIC BACKGROUND WAS AS A ELECTRICIAN [exceeded word limit]

QUESTION: *What are the most important challenges facing our community and how do you propose to address these challenges if elected?* (100 word limit)

I'VE BEEN A RESIDENT OF MARION TOWNSHIP FOR OVER 30 YEARS. WITH THE KNOWLEDGE I'VE GAINED IN BUSINESS AND LIFE, I TRULY FEEL THAT I CAN CONTRIBUTE IN A POSITIVE MANNER TO THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE TWP AND IT'S EVERYDAY OPERATION. ATTENDING THE MEETINGS OVER THE SUMMER I'VE BEEN ABLE TO OBSERVE THE PROBLEMS FACING THE TWP, AND I KNOW THAT BY WOKING TOGETHER WITH THE DIFFERENT COMITEE'S THAT WE CAN MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TWP. MAINTAINING OUR ROADS, OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND THE CLEAN UP OF UNSIGHTLY RESIDENCES CAN ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY [exceeded word limit]



Join League where active leaders create positive changes in our community.

The League of Women Voters is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to encourage informed participation of citizens in their government.

Any citizen over 18, male or female, may join the League of Women Voters. Please use the form below for further information:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone/s _____
Email _____

Please send to: Marion League of Women Voters P.O. Box 752, Marion, OH 43301 or marionleague@yahoo.com

For more election information see www.VOTE411.org

November 3rd, 2015 General Election

CITY OF MARION
MAYOR
☐ Scott Schertzer - D
☐ Jean Hoffmann - R
☐ Christopher Culp (write-in candidate)
LAW DIRECTOR
☐ Mark Russell - D
☐ Ray Grogan - R
AUDITOR
☐ Kelly Carr - D
☐ Donald Smith - R
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
☐ David Edwards - D
☐ Scot Gray - R
COUNCIL-AT-LARGE
☐ Scott Crider - D
☐ Josh Daniels - D
☐ Rebbeca Gustin - D
☐ Edgar Layne - R
☐ Kevin Norris - R
COUNCIL SEATS:
1st Ward Council
☐ Ralph Cumston - D
☐ Jill Lippert - R
2nd Ward Council
☐ Ayers Ratliff - D
3rd Ward Council
☐ Mike Thomas - D
☐ Tanner Hale - R
4th Ward Council
☐ Debbie Blevins - D
5th Ward Council
☐ John Smith - D
☐ Leslie Cunningham - R
6th Ward Council
☐ Dale Osborn - R

VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA
MAYOR
☐ Maureen Welch
CLERK / TREASURER
☐ Jeri Miracle
COUNCIL
No Candidate Filed

BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
No Candidate Filed
VILLAGE OF GREEN CAMP
MAYOR
☐ Michael Strawser
CLERK / TREASURER
No Candidate Filed
COUNCIL
No Candidate Filed

VILLAGE OF LARUE
MAYOR
☐ P. Milton Lightfoot
CLERK / TREASURER
☐ Mary Price
COUNCIL
☐ David Stallsmith

BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
No Candidate Filed
VILLAGE OF MORRAL
MAYOR
☐ Deb Thomas
COUNCIL
☐ Jason Craig
☐ Shayne A. Plumley

VILLAGE OF BLOOMINGTON
MAYOR
☐ Melinda Mosley
COUNCIL
☐ Virgie A. Kinsler
VILLAGE OF PROSPECT
MAYOR
☐ Eric Crist
☐ James Millisor

CLERK / TREASURER
☐ Teri Duprey
COUNCIL
☐ Jeffrey Ferrell
☐ Tammy Millisor

VILLAGE OF WALDO
MAYOR
☐ Bruce Baker
CLERK / TREASURER
☐ Shirley Groll
COUNCIL
☐ William Groll
☐ Ryan Mitchell

BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
No Candidate Filed
BIG ISLAND TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Philip Schaber
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Penny Fogle

BOWLING GREEN TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Samuel Sager
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Robin Anderson

CLARIDON TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Tim Mooney
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Wayne Crum

GRAND TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Joseph Metzger
☐ Jeff Swavel
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Daryl Burbaugh

GRAND PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Wilfred Thiel
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Steven Bollinger

GRAND CAMP TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Steve Ruth
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Mary McBeth

MARION TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Larry Ballinger
☐ Linnie Birdsong
☐ Timothy L. Combs
☐ Robert Stump
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Sheila Perin

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Jim Lynch

FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Tom Ford

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Steven Lust
FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Lavon Verity

PROSPECT TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Kenneth Blue

FISCAL OFFICER
☐ Wayne Emery

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE
☐ Richard Baldinger
☐ H. Warren Zachman

FISCAL OFFICER

☐ M. Janet Kightlinger

SALT ROCK TOWNSHIP

TRUSTEE

- ☐ John Burchett
- ☐ Robert Forry

FISCAL OFFICER

☐ Myra Milligan

SCOTT TOWNSHIP

TRUSTEE

☐ Randy Knapp

FISCAL OFFICER

☐ Sally Knapp

TULLY TOWNSHIP

TRUSTEE

- ☐ Floyd Barr
- ☐ Ronald Hoffman
- ☐ Robert Moodespaugh
- ☐ Larry Smith

FISCAL OFFICER

☐ Ila Moodespaugh

WALDO TOWNSHIP

TRUSTEE

☐ Steven Wetzel

FISCAL OFFICER

- ☐ Charles Groll
- ☐ Lisa Hoback
- ☐ Denise Smith

OHIO BOARD OF EDUCATION

DISTRICT #1 BOARD MEMBER

No Candidate Filed

NORTH CENTRAL OHIO
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

5TH DISTRICT

☐ Mickey M. Landon

7TH DISTRICT

No Candidate Filed

MARION CITY BOARD OF
EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Ted McKinniss
- ☐ Rocky White
- ☐ Steven Williams

ELGIN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Deborah Good
- ☐ Robert Ramey

PLEASANT LOCAL SCHOOL DIS-
TRICT BOARD OF
EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Thomas Baker
- ☐ Bret Bowers
- ☐ Pam Freshour
- ☐ Eric Grills
- ☐ Annette Holler
- ☐ Brian Sparling

RIDGEDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Patrick Ballenger
- ☐ Eric Park

RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOARD OF
EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Wesley Osborne
- ☐ Brian Stover
- ☐ Robert Haas

BUCKEYE VALLEY LOCAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Amy Dutt
- ☐ Joseph Roden
- ☐ Randy L Turner
- ☐ Jeff White

CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Tod Brininger
- ☐ Marilyn Redel Davis
- ☐ Charles A. Jones
- ☐ Denise L. Radcliffe
- ☐ Troy Ruehmund

NORTHMOR LOCAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCA-
TION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Tim Bachelder
- ☐ Jeffrey Whisler

UPPER SANDUSKY EXEMPTED
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
EDUCATION

BOARD MEMBER

- ☐ Gary Book
- ☐ James A. Morris

STATE ISSUES

ISSUE ONE

Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts

ISSUE TWO

Anti-monopoly amendment; protects the initiative process from being used for personal economic benefit

ISSUE THREE

Grants a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes

LOCAL QUESTIONS & ISSUES

**CRAWFORD-MARION BOARD OF
ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION
AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Renewal - Operation of alcohol, and drug addiction programs and mental health programs: 1 mill for 5 years

GRAND TWP.

Renewal - Operating Expenses: 1.5 mill for 5 years

FORT MORROW FIRE DISTRICT

Renewal - Fire protection: 2 mills for 5 years

LARUE VILLAGE

Renewal - Operating expenses: 5.9 mills for 5 years

LARUE VILLAGE PARK & POOL

Renewal - Current operating expenses for the park and pool: 1.5 mills for 3 years

**MARION COUNTY COUNCIL ON
AGING**

Renewal - Providing and maintaining senior citizens' services or facilities

NEW BLOOMINGTON VILLAGE

Renewal - Fire protection: 2 mills for 5 years

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

Renewal - Fire protection: 2 mills for 5 years

PROSPECT PARK DISTRICT

Renewal - General maintenance and capital improvements: 0.6 mills for 5 years

PROSPECT TOWNSHIP

Renewal - Current expenses: 1 mill for 5 years

PROSPECT VILLAGE POOL

Renewal - Current operating and maintenance expenses for the swimming pool: 1.5 mills for 5 years

RIDGEDALE SCHOOLS

Additional - Permanent improvements: 2 mills for 5 years

UPPER SANDUSKY SCHOOLS

Additional - Permanent improvements: 2 mills Continuing

**LOCAL OPTION ELECTION MARI-
ON TWP F**

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by The Kroger Company dba Kroger #201... at the Southeast Corner of Barks Rd. & Marion-Waldo Rd., Marion, Marion Twp., Ohio 43302

**LOCAL OPTION ELECTION MARI-
ON TWP A**

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of eleven a.m. and midnight by R. & R. of Marion, L.L.C., dba Rosa & Rocco's... at 160 McMahan Blvd & Patio, Marion, Marion Twp., Ohio 43302

Statewide Ballot Issues

Issue 1: Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts

(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly)

Proposing to enact new Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Article XI and to repeal Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

A YES vote means approval of the constitutional amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the constitutional amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

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

LEAGUE EXPLANATION OF ISSUE 1:

Issue 1 would amend the Ohio Constitution to change the way state legislative districts (but not U.S. Congressional districts) are determined. Every 10 years, Ohio draws new legislative district lines based on changes in population as reported in U.S. Census data. Issue 1 replaces the Apportionment Board with a bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission. If Issue 1 passes, members of the Commission will include:

- The Governor
- Auditor of State
- Ohio Secretary of State
- Appointee by the Speaker of the Ohio House
- Appointee by the President of the Ohio Senate
- Appointee by the Minority Leader of Ohio House
- Appointee by the Minority Leader of Ohio Senate

The Ohio Redistricting Commission will be responsible for creating district maps for the Ohio House and the Ohio Senate. Issue 1 establishes rules for map-making. It ensures compactness and keeps communities together by prohibiting splitting governmental units, like counties or cities, unless necessary. Issue 1 prohibits partisan gerrymandering. No General Assembly map shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party. Issue 1 creates more transparent map-making by requiring public hearings. If the amendment is passed, it will become part of the constitution immediately; however, the new rules for drawing districts will not be applied until the next time districts are redrawn beginning January 1, 2021, after the next U.S. Census.

Issue 1 encourages bipartisan map-making. For the maps to last ten years, at least two members of the minority party will have to vote in favor of it. If only one party supports a particular map, the district lines will only last four years. Map-making will be subjected to stricter criteria, including the requirement that the districts reflect the statewide partisan preferences of voters, sometimes called representational fairness.

PRO:

1. Prohibits partisan gerrymandering-- "No General Assembly district plan shall be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a party" will be written into the rules in the Ohio Constitution.
2. Requires transparency and public hearings, encouraging accountability to the electorate.
3. Districts will better protect community cohesiveness by limiting government units such as counties and cities from being split.
4. Eliminates the continuation of previous gerrymandering by removing language from the current Ohio Constitution that requires new maps to be "reasonably consistent" with old maps.

CON:

1. Many Ohioans are not Republican or Democrat. Third parties and Independents are not represented on the Commission.
2. Issue 1 does not address the process for determining U.S. Congressional districts.
3. The Ohio Redistricting Commission is not independent from legislators; legislative members can still influence the process.
4. Bipartisan Commission members can make "sweetheart deals" that can result in districts that are not representative of the state's overall partisan preferences.

Issue 2: Anti-monopoly amendment; protects the initiative process from being used for personal economic benefit

(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly)

Proposing to amend Section 1e of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

A YES vote means approval of the constitutional amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the constitutional amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

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

LEAGUE EXPLANATION OF ISSUE 2:

Issue 2 would prohibit an initiative petition amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would give special business rights to a certain person or entity. Specifically, Issue 2 would prohibit an initiative that creates a monopoly, cartel, or oligopoly; specifies or determines a tax rate; or confers a commercial interest, commercial right, or commercial license to any person or entity for the purpose of exclusively enriching its members and prohibiting others from engaging in similar enterprises.

If Issue 2 passes, the Ohio Ballot Board will be required to evaluate any proposed initiative petition to determine if it violates the prohibition above by creating a limited commercial interest. If such an initiative is proposed, the Ballot Board will be required to separate the proposed initiative into two parts – one part asking voters to override the limited business interest rule, and the second part describing the proposed new initiative – with both parts needing a majority vote for the initiative

to pass.

If both Issue 2 and Issue 3 are approved by the voters, it is unclear what will happen, because they would create conflicting sections within the state constitution. The Ohio Supreme Court will likely have to resolve the matter if both issues pass.

PRO:

1. Exclusive financial deals for special interests should not be enshrined in our state constitution.
2. The state constitution should be used to protect fundamental rights for all individuals, not cluttered with special interests.
3. Nineteen states have constitutional provisions banning monopolies and protecting free and fair commerce; Ohio should too.

CON:

1. The constitution should not be amended to interfere with the constitutional initiative process and block a measure approved by the voters.
2. The language is too vague and may unintentionally preclude future policy or tax issues from being brought forward as an initiative.
3. Issue 2 gives the Ballot Board too much discretion to declare a proposed initiative to be a monopoly and force it to jump through two hurdles instead of one.

Issue 3: Grants a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

Proposing to add Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

A YES vote means approval of the constitutional amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the constitutional amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 30 days after Election Day.

LEAGUE EXPLANATION OF ISSUE 3:

Issue 3 has a two-fold objective: (1) to legalize marijuana for personal and medical

use and (2) to establish rules for growth and sales.

Growth and cultivation of marijuana will be limited to ten pre-determined, specific "grow sites" situated throughout the state. The ten sites already have designated investors. There will also be a number of pre-determined "quality control" sites throughout the state to test the product being cultivated. About 1,100 retail outlets will be allowed to sell marijuana, but they must buy it only from the ten specified sites and cannot develop their own supplies.

Individuals may grow up to four plants and possess up to eight ounces of actual product at one time. The four plants must also be bought from the ten specified wholesale grow sites. Under this initiative, individuals possessing or cultivating over 100 grams of marijuana would be committing a felony. Selling marijuana outside of the sanctioned outlets would also be a felony, with a possible sentence of up to one year in prison.

PRO:

1. Marijuana will, within the strict limits specified in the initiative, become legal to cultivate, use, and sell in Ohio for medicinal and personal use.
2. Issue 3 creates rules for a tightly controlled industry. The system of designated grow sites and quality control testing areas will ensure that the marijuana grown at these sites will address standards of public safety.
3. Issue 3 will create tens of thousands of jobs in Ohio and will eventually generate millions of dollars in tax revenue to support local government services.

CON:

1. The state constitution should be used to protect the fundamental rights of all individuals, not to enshrine an extremely detailed plan creating exclusive financial deals for a group of special interest investors.
2. The initiative sets up an exclusive business scheme that eliminates competition to such an extent that independent business owners could be permanently locked out of what is projected to be a billion-dollar market and individual users who do not abide by the strict restrictions will still be subject to criminal penalties.
3. Issue 3 will flood Ohio with marijuana and marijuana-infused products, like candy and cookies, that put the public health and safety of Ohio's adults and children in danger.



Come to League of Women Voters Candidates Night

Thursday October 22, 2015

doors open 7:00 PM • broadcast starts 7:30 PM

Marion Senior Center – 2375 Harding Highway East

Broadcast: WMRN 1490 AM iheart.com/live/1490-WMRN-AM-1829

Harding High School Telecom Digital Media will videotape the event for broadcast online and on Time Warner public access channels.



Come to the November League Forum

Needle Exchange: A Community Conversation

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:00 PM

Community Recovery Center 827 North Main Street Marion, Ohio 43302

Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of Marion,

ADAMH Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board and Marion Public Health



Vote early
at Board of Elections
222 West Center St., Marion, Ohio
or by mail

Or vote on Election Day

Tuesday, November 3rd
from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM

Find your polling place:

call the Marion County Board of Elections
at (740) 223-4090 or www.marionelections.com



League of Women Voters marionleague@yahoo.com

Voter Information



Have you moved?



If your new address is in the same county,
you may vote at your new precinct.

If you moved counties within Ohio, you may
vote at your new county's Board of Elections.

Marion County Board of Elections 222 West Center St, Marion, Ohio (740) 223-4090



League of Women Voters marionleague@yahoo.com

2015 Early Voting Alert



You can vote early October 6th
through Monday, November 2nd

Vote by Mail – get a ballot request at Ohio Secretary of State www.sos.state.oh.us
or get a ballot to mail at the Marion County Board of Elections

Vote Early in Person at Marion County Board of Elections
222 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302
call (740) 223-4090 for details

In Person Early Voting Schedule

Tuesday October 6 - Friday October 9	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday October 12 to 16	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday October 19 to 23	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday October 26 to 30	8:00 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday October 31	8:00 am to 4:00pm
Sunday November 1	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Monday November 2	8:00 am to 2:00 pm



League of Women Voters marionleague@yahoo.com

Where do I vote?

Was my voting location one of
the 19 that changed?



Call Marion County Board of Elections
(740) 223-4090

Or go to:

www.marionelections.com/where-to-vote/



League of Women Voters marionleague@yahoo.com



Fall Election Voter Guide 2015 League of Women Voters of Marion, Ohio

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Executive / Editorial Committee: Beth Babich, R.J. Bicking Publicity Chair: Jo Ann Radwin-Zimmerman

Membership/Info: LWV PO Box 752, Marion, OH 43302 • marionleague@yahoo.com • (740) 389-5795