



VOTER REPORT

Candidates Respond to Important Questions Impacting Local Businesses

The Findlay•Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board invited the candidates running for local offices to respond to a questionnaire in order for you, the business community, to vote pro-business. Learn why the candidates chose to run and their top priorities should they be elected. These candidates were asked to respond, up to 175 words, to each question below. Those responses are listed exactly as they were received, and those that exceeded the required word count are stopped at 175 words.

Contested races whose candidates were invited to respond:
**indicates no responses were received from any candidate*

City of Findlay Municipal Court Judge
Allen Township Trustee*
Amanda Township Trustee
Blanchard Township Trustee*
Cass Township Trustee
Liberty Township Trustee*
Pleasant Township Trustee*
Van Buren Township Trustee*
Village of McComb Mayor

Village of McComb Member of Council
Village of Vanlue Member of Council
Findlay CSD Member of Board of Education
Arcadia LSD Member of Board of Education
Arlington LSD Member of Board of Education
Cory-Rawson LSD Member of Board of Education
Riverdale LSD Member of Board of Education
Van Buren LSD Member of Board of Education

City of Findlay Municipal Court Judge

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Stephanie Bishop (Incumbent): I was appointed by Governor DeWine in April of 2021 as a Judge in Findlay Municipal Court. As such, it is necessary for me to run to retain my seat. I also believe that it is important to have competent, qualified and motivated individuals in leadership roles. I meet all of these qualities and I believe that I am the most qualified person to continue to serve as a Judge in Findlay Municipal Court. Prior to being appointed, I had prosecuted in Findlay Municipal Court since 2011. Prior to that I prosecuted in Fostoria Municipal Court and prior to that I practiced as a defense attorney. I also practiced as a private practicing attorney in a variety of different cases and represented a variety of different types of litigants. I believe that my experiences over the last 18 years of practicing law as well as the last 5 months on the bench, along with my own life experiences help me to better understand individuals and the problems that they face when coming before me.



Garth W. Brown (Candidate): I have always had a drive for public service- interning with Mike Oxley in Washington, D.C., serving as Findlay City Councilman, volunteering with the “We the People” team at FHS each year, working behind the scenes with Findlay First Edition, serving on the foundation committee at my church, St. Andrews, and assisting on the University of Findlay Curtain Raiser’s Board, to name a few. According to Martindale-Hubbell, I am highly rated by my peers in both legal ability and ethical standards. In my 28 years of practice, I have seen the importance firsthand of fair, impartial, and swift judgment. I believe in the people of Hancock County and our judicial system. My diversity in case representation and legal experience make me the ideal candidate for this position. This opportunity is a time to lend my level-headed thinking, even-temperament, professional understanding, high moral compass, and solid work ethic to the Municipal Court bench as a new venture of service.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Stephanie Bishop (Incumbent): If I win in November I will continue to be involved with developing a solution for the increased need for substance abuse and mental health treatment in Hancock County. I believe that it is important to address these underlying issues which cause a large number of individuals to offend. I have been working in conjunction with other individuals in the Judicial system as well as treatment providers in the community to develop a Community Alternative Sentencing Center in Hancock County. The CASC would allow individuals to serve their jail days in a secure facility and in addition to allowing them to be released to go to work there would be treatment providers in the facility so that individuals can be assessed and begin receiving treatment while serving their jail time. I have also worked in conjunction with Probate Court to address those individuals who come before me with serious mental health concerns. I believe that it is important for the community to work together to address these concerns and to find a solution.



Garth W. Brown (Candidate): The three most important priorities for the Municipal Court include expanding community service opportunities, working to reduce the jail population to allow space for those who must serve time, and continuing the ease of access to the Court. When an individual is required to repay the community for their wrongdoing, community service provides an opportunity to both pay for their crime and benefit the community. The community and the Court should work together to create more opportunities for offenders to participate in community service to help build a better county. Secondly, the current county jail is too small for the current number of offenders in Hancock County, and opportunities for a new alternative sentencing option like work release should be reviewed. The prior work release center was an opportunity that was underutilized. Finally, the Court should remain accessible and explore new means of reaching participants by reviewing the benefit of expanded hours, online payments for bond waivers, and the propriety of electronic filings for attorneys.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Stephanie Bishop (Incumbent): I will continue to work with and seek input from the individuals in the community who are involved with the criminal justice system as well as the substance abuse and mental health community to assist with getting more services in place in Hancock County. I will ensure that everyone has access to the Courts and to our processes so that the community can see the work that is performed in Findlay Municipal Court. Further, I will continue to be involved in the community, as I am now, so that I can continue to know what areas of need there are in the community.



Garth W. Brown (Candidate): For the last 35 years, a former prosecutor has served as the Municipal Court Judge in Hancock County. Prosecutors typically view cases differently. I have represented and worked to protect the rights of people charged with a variety of crimes and understand the importance of due process. As judge, I would undoubtedly be able to set my personal feelings aside to work to protect those rights insured by the U.S. and Ohio Constitutions. Guilty individuals would not necessarily receive lighter sentences but would have their rights protected throughout the judicial process. Civil litigants and landlord-tenant cases are also entitled to fairness while having the law applied fairly and determined promptly. Additionally, I have worked with and referred hundreds of clients to agencies within the community for services and have good working relationships with support organizations throughout the community. The role of the Judge is to serve the community, not the other way around. This role is an opportunity to serve my community with fairness, impartiality, and swift judgment.

Amanda Township Trustee

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Daniel R. Watson (Incumbent): I have lived in Amanda Township for 50 years and currently an active member of the Volunteer Fire Department for 39 years, and work for the local phone company in the community and township for the last 39 years. I will be running for my fourth term as Amanda Township trustee, because I believe change starts with the local government and I pride myself on trying problem solve and provide fair solutions for my fellow township residents. I want to be a voice for everyone, and I am passionate to make our township a better place to live and be a desirable area for them to raise their families.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Daniel R. Watson (Incumbent): This past year has been a challenge for all small communities and townships with the global pandemic, so I feel more than ever it is critical to come together as a community and help each other through these tough times. Our township has distributed covid relief grant dollars to the local fire departments and schools, so they can ensure to get proper training and equipment. These funds will help them to purchase things that that were absolutely critical, but they could not purchase because it was not in their budget. These items will help keep them safe, most important, but will be an incredible benefit to help keep our communities safe as well. Being a Trustee, I feel it is my duty to make sure the covid relief money was distributed to the proper organizations.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Daniel R. Watson (Incumbent): In this role, it is my public duty to ensure that I am advocating for the voice of my fellow residents. I want to create an inclusive forum that allows people to be able to speak on their concerns and I want to be an active listener to their ideas and feedback. Being open minded and honest with the community is what I stive for each day, as an Amanda township trustee, and I will continue that commitment if re-elected.

Candidates running for **Amanda Township Trustee** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Jon J. Hagerty, Steven M. Ruggles

Cass Township Trustee

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Jerry L. Wolford (Incumbent): I always have been interested in local government. When I left the factory after 28 years, I was 50 and continued my drainage business and farming and realized I could run for township trustee.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Jerry L. Wolford (Incumbent): Our local priorities are to make decisions on road paving, drainage, road maintenance and coordinating fire coverage. We do a lot of our own labor for such things as snow plowing, road signage, tile maintenance. With our small budget we cannot hire a lot of our work done by contractors. We do most of this ourselves at no additional cost to the township

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Jerry L. Wolford (Incumbent): Our rural township is zoned about 97% agriculture which means we are not densely populated. We send out a yearly newsletter and discuss our current projects and our monthly township meetings are always open. It's not unusual to get two or three short phone calls a day and usually a short conversation can solve a number of concerns. Not always though. When I get a concern voiced to me, I communicate with the other trustees and we discuss how it should be resolved. You don't have to vote for me, but please vote.

Candidates running for **Cass Township Trustee** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Megan Grau, Jason P. Rinker

Village of McComb Mayor

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Cathy Scroll (Incumbent): As a retired school administrator, after 38 years of working in public education, I feel working in a public office is just an extension of my successful career. I previously served three years on the Village Council before becoming the Village Mayor at the end of 2020. I have always had a desire to work with people and to seek solutions to make improvements to the community. During my time on council we hired a full time fiscal officer and as mayor this past year we hired a Village Administrator and a Chief of Police. I believe we have highly qualified individuals in the positions working together to make a positive change within the Village of McComb. I would like the opportunity to continue to lead such a strong team and see the set goals become a reality for McComb?

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Cathy Scroll (Incumbent): Being fiscally responsible is number one. Without money or the ability to seek grants or loans not much moves forward for the Village. Everything is very expensive and a long range financial plan is inherent. In 2016, NWWSD took over the Village's water and sanitary sewer mainly due to poor maintenance leading to bad water for the residents. The Village did not have the finances available to make the improvements. As a Village we are responsible for the storm water infrastructure. Just like the water and sanitary lines very little has been done for decades. A top priority we have been working toward is a comprehensive overhaul of the entire Village's storm water system. By improving the system, we will help to eliminate flooding and improve the time it takes for storm water to dissipate. Improving the infrastructure will enhance the Village's ability to attract additional industry, businesses and housing. As a community we must make ourselves aware of the issues and become a voice as part of the solution through trusted communication.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Cathy Scroll (Incumbent): Each month a Village Newsletter and a Quarterly Mayoral Update for the residents is published. Included is a section "Village Voices" where residents can contact the office with questions/concerns. My office is open and I encourage residents to attend the Village Council meetings and to voice their concerns. Council meetings are posted on the website and you will soon be able to view the Ordinances from the past years along with the Planning and Zoning document. This will give the residents access to all the past priorities that council handled and allow residents who have questions to gather information and make informed decisions. The current council works together and shares concerns brought to them by residents and works to resolve their concerns. Communication is the key to many successful organizations. I encourage two-way dialogue and listen to residents and council who represent the community. By being an honest person and building trust within the community we will be able to successfully make the best decisions for the Village of McComb.

Candidates running for **Village of McComb Mayor** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Gordon L. Myers

Village of McComb Member of Council

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Michael L. Fasig (Candidate): A motivating factor in my decision to run for public office is previously being involved with McComb Local schools for 15 plus years coaching football and wrestling. Another motivating factor is after having the experience of managing multi-million dollar projects; it has helped me to be able to make sound decisions when needed. With these two motivating factors and having a seat on council it will give me the chance to be more involved and be able to help make a difference in the community.



Elizabeth A. Fenstermaker (Candidate): My motivating factor in my decision to run for a McComb council seat in November is to see where we can improve in certain areas within the community and how to bring in new people to experience the small town feel that I thoroughly enjoy. I am the "3rd generation" of my family who has lived in McComb. I moved away from my hometown for a brief period but eventually moved back and raised my children in McComb as well because it is such a wonderful place to raise a family. I love my "little town" as I call it.



Brenda I. Mygrant (Incumbent): I sought to fill a village council vacancy in 2018 placing my emphasis on areas where little attention had been consistently concentrated: infrastructure—specifically storm water management and development of a robust planning and zoning emphasis for the future. This piggybacked into the then recent joining ranks with Northwest Water and Sewer District for safe water and sewage treatment for the village. Infrastructure improvements are just now getting underway and I would like to be part of the force to keep moving it forward for the village residents to solve long standing infrastructure problems particularly in the area of storm water management.



James W. Schroll (Incumbent): Financial Responsibility is number one. Transparency is number two. We need people on council who are held accountable for their votes and actions. Council needs to represent the Village and not personal interests!

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Michael L. Fasig (Candidate): One priority that needs to be set should I win in November is accountability. Everyone that gets a seat on council should be accountable for any decision(s) made to make the community better instead of trying to place the blame on others when the decision(s) have been made. In addition, the council should be held accountable in providing the community a breakdown/explanation to show how the tax dollars are being spent and how it will benefit the community. The second and final priority is transparency. Being able to provide the citizens of McComb with a complete breakdown/detailed documents at the council meetings instead of only posting the information online the Friday before the meeting. Also, being transparent to the community when a topic is being discussed by providing an update/or answer the question instead of deflecting the issue that is being brought up.



Elizabeth A. Fenstermaker (Candidate): An important priority is finding a way in bringing in new housing, condos, new apartments/lofts, etc. We need to find housing developer(s) that may be interested in investing in this area. Bringing in new people would potentially bring in revenue for our community. Our community needs to promote our little perks that are already in place in McComb, one of them being the park. We, as a community, must invest in the things (not just our park) that strengthen, not weaken our community. Our downtown development has been a struggle, but with some incentives, we can rebuild and hopefully bring in new businesses and help the existing businesses. I have a background in business management, and I hope my 20 plus years of experience will help find cost-effective ways in helping to improve our community without burdening it. Incentives are key to bringing all these important priorities to light.

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Brenda I. Mygrant (Incumbent): The most important priorities to be set are communication, fiscal responsibility, and infrastructure improvement(s). Residents sought on line billing and secure online payment of gas bills and the village has put secure means in place to support this. Residents desired on line council meetings with their agendas and this has also been accomplished on the village website. Broadening our newsletter outreach to all village residents is yet another means of bringing information to the residents who are not computer savy. Moving forward to support residents' infrastructure concerns required the village to establish a source of revenue outside the tax base for payment of improvements. Hence ERU's were established to off set costs for storm water management construction projects. This enables the village to apply for and receive various grants to off set the overall costs which we would have otherwise not qualified for. As residents, we should continue to actively communicate our concerns on our priorities realizing there are many things that influence time frames and money to reach an established goal.



James W. Schroll (Incumbent): We need to address the infrastructure. Streets, storm sewers, etc. They have been neglected way to long. We need to dig out of the financial mess that ran this Village into having to sell off the water and sewer. That income is lost forever and Northwest has no management to complete projects in a timely manner. Village residents need to attend council meetings to keep informed and elect a qualified mayor and council. We as a community need to clean up town, address drug problems and attract new businesses.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Michael L. Fasig (Candidate): In order to ensure that all voices in the community are being heard and that the best decisions are being made is communication. Communicate to the citizens of McComb about the current projects being done and the status of those particular projects. Advise the citizens of McComb of the projects that will need to be done in the future and even follow up on the concerns that the citizens of McComb have brought up to the councils attention. By taking the time to communicate with the citizens of McComb it shows that their voices are being heard and it gives them the ability to trust the individuals on council to make McComb a better place.



Elizabeth A. Fenstermaker (Candidate): If I am elected in November for a McComb council seat, I will always remember that it was my community that voted for me to represent their voices. I will remember to keep an open mind and listen to my community and to always try to find "solutions" to any concern/complaint. Common goal is to always strive to make our community a better place.



Brenda I. Mygrant (Incumbent): The residents note infrastructure needs as a priority through social media posts and appearance before council. Community blight has also been noted as part of their concerns. I will seek to do some on line surveys for residents on infrastructure project time lines and consult our partners in community support (Hancock Regional Planning, Northwest Water and Sewer, Pleasant Township Trustees, Northwest Fire District, Pleasant-McComb-Portage Emergency Services) so that services and aid remain intact. I will also be walking work areas on any given day looking at work being undertaken to address issues during the work phase so state or county requirement versus a resident's emphasis or want can be immediately balanced. Currently council meetings are open to the public and recorded and posted on our web site. In the future I see recording more meetings for placement on line so when a resident may not be able to attend they can access information.



James W. Schroll (Incumbent): All council meetings are recorded and posted to the Village website. Village residents and concerns are addressed by Village Administrator, Mayor, Chief of Police and Council. This was not done in past years.

Candidates running for **Village of McComb Member of Council** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Tyler Brumbaugh, Carol A. Cary, Anika Midge Ewing-Brown, Sara Klay, Greg Shannon

Village of Vanlue Member of Council

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Robert Greene (Candidate): I have decided to run for available village council seat so that I can become more involved with the village of Vanlue. As a pastor in the community, I often see the needs of the residents in a different way than some people. I would like to use that perspective to become elected to the village council of our great community.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Robert Greene (Candidate): Our priorities as representatives (counsel seats) of the community I believe are as follows: that it is our responsibility to maintain the excellent infrastructure, community spirit and pride. That we strive to maintain a clean, safe family environment. We can only continue on this path of upward progression with a strong village government made up of community leaders. These leaders need to hear the voice of the residence of the village and respond in an appropriate, caring and thoughtful manner.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Robert Greene (Candidate): If elected, I fully intend to be available to my community as their representative and I will invite any and all questions. However, if I am not able to answer them immediately, I will find an answer to their questions. I will represent them with no reserve, prejudice. Many times, the average resident can feel as though they are overlooked or their opinion doesn't matter. It is my goal to help alleviate this problem

Candidates running for **Village of Vanlue Member of Council** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Melissa A. Caudill, Rebecca Nye, Melissa Sunderhaus, Amy Wisely

Findlay City School District Member of Board of Education

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): Findlay has always had a special place in my heart. I was born and raised here and graduated from Findlay City Schools. My brother, sister, and mom all graduated from Findlay City Schools. My two daughters also attend FCS and will eventually graduate from Findlay. Many people positively impacted my life through those years at FCS. They truly helped shape me into the person I am today. It has been a goal of mine to give back to FCS in some capacity. As a battalion chief on the Findlay Fire Department, I believe I have a set of leadership skills that are unique. I believe I can make a positive impact through that ability that will affect the lives of the kids, the staff, and this community. Findlay deserves to have the best educational opportunities, facilities, and school culture that we can all be proud of. I believe that my leadership skills, my love for FCS, will help propel us to our number 1 objective in the strategic plan. Once a Trojan always a Trojan!



Patricia J. Klein (Candidate): I am running for the board as a strong advocate for parents and their children. I am keenly aware of the frustration of parents regarding what seems to be arbitrary responses to virus-related protocols contrary to the expressed wishes of parents. One size does not fit all. Also, as a former FCS paraprofessional, I have observed firsthand that FCS priorities are drifting from pursuing academic excellence to a hyper-focus on the soft skills of social and emotional learning, many of which are not compatible with traditional family values.



Susan D. Russel (Incumbent): Community service is an important part of my life. My husband and I chose to live in Findlay over 25 years ago, and we believe in giving time, talent and treasure to our local community. Our sons were raised in Findlay and attended Findlay City Schools. The quality of their education was excellent and their experiences with extracurricular music and sports enabled them to transition to and succeed in college. Four years ago, I decided that it was time to give back to the school district that had given so much to our family and I was elected to a seat on the board. I am seeking re-election to the Findlay City Schools Board of Education in order to continue the positive momentum of the district. We have successfully regained financial stability of the district, gotten the district off state fiscal watch, restored our credit rating and have a positive outlook in the 5-year forecast. We have made positive changes to district leadership and district structure for repeatable cost savings and improved academic success.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): We are experiencing unprecedented challenging times as a district. COVID-19 has made it difficult to educate our children. If not for these times my priority would be certainly different. However, the biggest priority now is closing the achievement gap due to schools closing in March of 2020 and the constant back and forth between virtual and hybrid learning from 2020-2021. As a community, the schools could use any volunteer help we can get to help with intervention work. We have to make up from lost time in the classroom. Research shows that we are far better when in-person and in the classroom for multiple reasons such as learning, social, and emotional growth. Those all work hand in hand in development. If we could get the community on board to help in the schools to close the achievement gap, we'd be far better off moving forward. Our teachers are trying as hard as they can to get there, but it will take all of us to make up for that lost time.



Patricia J. Klein (Candidate): Parents have a God-given right to make choices about the values and the health of their children. Objective 2 of FCS' Strategic Plan declares governmental expectations related to all aspects of health including social and emotional outcomes that will be assessed. The FCS plan is merely a rewrite of the Ohio Department of Education's Strategic Plan. It is my strong desire to revisit our not-so-local plan in public meetings to ensure that the plan does indeed reflect local values and expectations. Board members and administrators have an obligation to truly listen and to be helpfully responsive to parents, not only as a group of people, but as individuals. The practice of treating parents, and some teachers, in a dismissive manner, must end. Parents want their children to be well-educated and equipped to pursue their goals. Parents entrust schools, and those who lead them, to join with them in pursuit of that goal. To that end, academic achievement must be the primary goal of FCS.



Susan D. Russel (Incumbent): Now that the district has gotten our financial house in order, we are poised to focus on my highest priority which is the academic performance of the students. The pandemic has negatively impacted our students in many ways. We are using funds provided by the state to provide mental health counseling and escalate academic improvement which I fully support. I would like to see the district improve the utilization of data to measure and improve the academic performance of all students. I will champion initiatives to review and improve our curriculum in the middle schools where we have seen the most significant drop in reading and math test scores. I would also like to see better tracking metrics to drive improvements in high school academic performance. The community can support excellence in student achievement by continuing to support the full realization of the Fair School Funding Plan which was adopted in this year's biennial budget. When schools are funded adequately, we can better focus our energies on student achievement.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): As a current board member, I have listened to many different views. I have asked questions with people in the community, with teachers, and with kids in the schools. I do my best to find a balance of controversial issues but then decide based on what I believe is ultimately best for the kids and the community. A perfect example was my vote to return to 5-day a week school last school year. I have been open and honest with all people. It is hard to answer every email lately because the climate on masks in schools have created a division in this country; however, I do read them all. Because no other elected officials or administrative agencies want to take ownership or responsibility for the decisions on masks, they have fallen on local school boards. As a battalion chief for the Findlay Fire Department, we have to make life or death decisions and we have to own those decisions and be responsible for them. Overall, I have been very responsive to our community members.



Patricia J. Klein (Candidate): All voices rightly deserve representation, but not all voices are equal. The order of public comments at board meetings should be parents, teachers, staff, community members, board members, and then the administration. Currently, the order is reversed. No one person can reverse that order; only a strong board can do so, and that is why your vote matters. Individual members can ensure nothing, but individually they can strongly advocate on behalf of those they serve. Bottom line: Policies are adopted by the majority vote of the board. As your representative, I will introduce a resolution that would, among other things, revise the Board's Policy Manual with a focus on improving how the board interacts with the public, streamline the agendas, and require that the agendas and related materials be posted in a timelier manner.



Susan D. Russel (Incumbent): Recently, we have seen an increase in parent and student participation at board meetings, which has been wonderful. Our students provide a perspective that we need to hear. I believe that parents know what is best for their children and we need to listen to them. I would also like to find a way to integrate members of the community into several of our committees. I have served on the Finance Committee for the last four years and believe that having community members participate would be helpful to making better decisions. I would also like to have results of our meetings more visible and several of our financial reports should be more easily available to the public. An ongoing community conversation regarding the state of our local schools would be mutually beneficial. My contact information is available on the district website and I read every email. I am also active in our community through Findlay Rotary, First Presbyterian Church and my work at Marathon Petroleum.

Candidates running for **Findlay City School District Member of Board of Education** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Sara Peltier

Arcadia Local School District Member of Board of Education

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Linda Bishop (Candidate): For too long people have not taken part in their civic duty to run for local offices. It is our duty and responsibility to get involved in these processes for the good of schools and society in general. As a retired teacher and small business owner, it is good for children to see and learn that every day ordinary people can and should get involved to make sure our schools remain places for all students to learn. It is my intent to represent and support the parents, students, tax payer, and school employees to maintain the best education within the means of the community. It is important that the community learns why enrollment at is dropping at Arcadia and some families are switching schools. Since I have no children in school, I would represent a more impartial point of view. A school board mix of younger and older people makes for better representation in our community.



Corey Boes (Incumbent): I want to continue to have a positive influence in the education of my children along with the children of our community. I want to continue to be a voice of reason for fiscal responsibility for the taxpayers of our school district.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Linda Bishop (Candidate): One of my important priorities is that children need to learn solid skills in reading, writing, arithmetic, and civics as well as other pertinent subjects and should not include materials and messages that try to change kids' core beliefs. With the many talented people of various ages in our community, a celebration of our rich heritage by celebrating Constitution Day, September 17, with community members helping students learn about why this day is so important in our history could be implemented. The community could decide what activities or speakers could be used so students can learn the importance of this document in short age appropriate lessons or using speakers. As a believer in the Golden Rule, it is the only thing kids really need to learn in order to get along with others in and out of school. This could include short lessons on the importance of a person's character, and does not cause divisions among people.



Corey Boes (Incumbent): I feel the most important priorities to be set are to give our students the best education we can while keeping them safe and healthy. As a community, we can all help by being involved in our children's education by helping at school or coming to school board meetings and offering suggestions how we can all work together to improve the education of our students at Arcadia.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Linda Bishop (Candidate): A community advisory committee could be explored as way for everyone who wishes to have a voice in the operations and curriculum of the school to be heard outside of school board meetings. Administrators and teachers would be invited to hear community input involving our school. This might be yearly, quarterly or when a need arises. An income statement and balance sheet could easily be put in the monthly community school paper. People need to know where their taxes are being spent and where the money is coming from besides from real estate taxes that the community pays. Meeting minutes could also be posted in this publication which would help those who do not have time to listen to an online meeting or who do not have computer access. It is a good place for the school to be transparent for the community.



Corey Boes (Incumbent): By listening to everyone's input including the ones who might have a different viewpoint than my own. I've learned over the years, even the people who others may hesitate to listen to, will have some good points which need to be addressed also. Over the past 12 years I have had the courage to make difficult decisions in the best interest of our students and the community and will continue to do so.

Candidates running for **Arcadia Local School District Member of Board of Education** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Ryan A. George, Chad Rosebrook

Arlington Local School District Member of Board of Education

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Kevin Hartman (Candidate): Everyone should give back to their community somehow..... such as coaching youth sports, public office, volunteering at the school, local church, supporting academic and or athletic programs within the school system. I was taught to leave things better than what you found them. I am a proud Arlington alumnus, class of 1998. I have a Freshman and 7th grader attending Arlington. They represent the 4th generation of our family to attend Arlington Local Schools. A big part of my pride, passion and hard work ethic came from attending a small school such as Arlington. I have a sense of need to give back to the school system that has provided me and my family great opportunities.



Cindy K. Hindall (Candidate): My interest in becoming a member of the Arlington Local School Board is to support and enhance the educational opportunities and learning environment for the students and staff. Our family has had students in Arlington School since the 1900's which has created a strong bond with the school. I now have three grandchildren attending. My involvement over the years has been as a parent volunteer, classroom aid and then secretary and EMIS Coordinator for three Superintendents over twenty-five years. Now that I've retired, I feel being a board member is the next step to support the community. I am very familiar with the funding process for schools and feel my background would be beneficial to the district.



Kyle Kelley Powell (Incumbent): I am currently the Vice President of the Arlington LSD Board of Education. Due to being only 28 years old, I believe I can continue to use my past experiences from working at IBM, Marathon Petroleum, Student Government President at Wright State University, and being on the Board of Education at Northeastern Local School District in Springfield, Ohio in order to continue to improve the quality of education in northeast Ohio.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Kevin Hartman (Candidate): Building a new school. Continue to improve our buildings and grounds to assure student/faculty safety. Bring Passion to the school board and get stuff done! I challenge the community to come together and pass a levy for a new school (spring 2022). The time is NOW!! Everything has a shelf life. Our original school will be 100 years old in 2023. It is time to move on and build the school that will support our current and future students for years to come. Arlington doesn't have any industry. That is why the school is so vital to the future of this community. The city of Findlay continues to grow. It is time for Arlington to be an option for new residents who want to attend a smaller school as they relocate to Hancock County. Also, a new school will keep kids from leaving our school to attend nearby schools that have better facilities.



Cindy K. Hindall (Candidate): My top priority will be communicating the need for a healthy and safe learning environment a new school could provide. It's so important for our community to support our school, it's the heart of the community. Additional priorities include: To determine the needs of the administration, staff and students and review options available to address those needs within the scope of the law, state requirements and available financing. To learn the short and long term goals of the district. Are we meeting the needs of businesses for a future workforce? Do we need more apprenticeship opportunities available for school-to-work programs? The Chamber of Commerce could be a bridge between businesses and the school. To promote the growth of the school through various means of communication.



Kyle Kelley Powell (Incumbent): We most continue to improve the education for students so that they can compete for the jobs of tomorrow. Moreover, we possibly may put a levy on the ballot for a new school in the first half of 2022. As a community, continuous engagement to what is going on in the school and in the Board meetings is always important, as feedback and opinions are always welcomed. Furthermore, allowing opportunities for internships, mentoring, and guidance can really help a student's career path.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Kevin Hartman (Candidate): Community members are welcome at all school board meetings. Being from the district I know a lot of people! I also love to see former alumni that I went to school with who have kids in the school system. With my kids in school my wife and I attend many events at Arlington throughout the school year I enjoy talking with people and listening to positive and negative feedback about the school system. I will not be afraid to bring these issues up in a school board meeting and fight for what is best for our students and faculty.



Cindy K. Hindall (Candidate): To ensure all voices will be heard it's important to listen when out in the community. Encourage them to be involved with parent groups, staff or community groups, attending board meetings and ask questions, give comments or concerns about how the district is doing. It's important for all to be heard so the administration and board can make informed decisions.



Kyle Kelley Powell (Incumbent): Since day one of being on the Arlington LSD Board of Education, I have advocated heavily for more transparency from the Board of Education. By doing so, we now have a dedicated website to show when our meetings are going to be held, meeting agendas and minutes, and bios for all of the Board members. Lastly, we always welcome the public to our Board meetings and have a dedicated spot for the public discussion. You are more than willing to contact me by phone and/or email so I can hear your comments/concerns.

Candidates running for **Arlington Local School District Member of Board of Education** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Mark A. Russell

Cory-Rawson Local School District Member of Board of Education

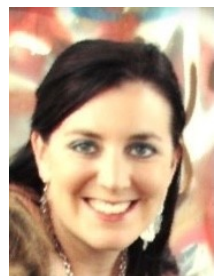
Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Kari Kempf (Candidate): As a former graduate of Cory-Rawson Schools, I am motivated to ensure that all students receive a strong foundation and quality education to help them succeed while attending Cory-Rawson and beyond. I take a lot of pride in our district and want to see it grow. I value the input of the community and know that good communication is an essential part of building a successful district. Teamwork is imperative for everyone involved.



Andy Wagner (Candidate): First and foremost would be my kids. My oldest is in 3rd grade and my youngest is 3, so I have an interest in the future of this school. Second is the opportunity to serve the school and community that I grew up in.



Adrienne Witteman (Candidate): I pride myself in being an active member of the community having served prior on Village Council, helper with SOS (Support Our Students) when our kids were in elementary, and currently serving as a music booster for Cory-Rawson Music Boosters. Our children's education is very important to me. I would take great pride in being a part of the decision making to help bolster great discussion and changes in an ever-changing world. My motivation is to provide the best education for children in the Cory-Rawson School district no matter what their track is in life. Some may continue their education, some will not. We need to make sure we are doing our due diligence to provide the best education and assist our students.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Kari Kempf (Candidate): Our students should always be our number one priority, and I believe all decisions being made need to reflect that. Open enrollment has made a huge impact on our district, so addressing those concerns is one of my priorities. I also feel it's imperative to be aware of current and future changes in our curriculum, so our students' best interests are met. I am very proud to be a hornet, and bringing pride and spirit back to the halls of Cory-Rawson is a must! Once a Hornet, always a Hornet!



Andy Wagner (Candidate): We need to work with the administration to set policies and strengthen our programs that will slow down open enrollment. We need to encourage people to be part of the solution to the challenges that this school district faces. There is a strong core of people who are heavily involved in the success of this school district and that core needs to continue to grow.



Adrienne Witteman (Candidate): Collaboration is very important in any school district. It is important to be advocates for both the students and the staff at the school with the community's vision in mind. Communication and transparency is important as well. Both of these priorities need to go hand in hand to achieve the best education for our students. Community outreach is another important priority to me as well. Several Communities make up our district and we need to build strong community goals built on creating a district culture with the help of parents, family members, and alumni. The best solution to all of these is involvement. We have a duty to actively communicate to our "shareholders" (parents, students, alumni, and community members) and let their voices be heard to make the best decisions for our student's future. We have to get back to a society of taking pride in our schools and our community, however we cannot complete this without everyone's help.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Kari Kempf (Candidate): Active listening is not only hearing, but listening to the genuine feelings or messages someone is trying to convey. As a Cosmetologist, I feel like active listening is one of my strongest character traits. Listening and confidentiality are a must in my profession. Along with those traits, I also bring a mother's perspective to the table. I value the input of our community and will strive to listen to all suggestions and concerns that may arise. I pledge to be open minded in my decision making and to devote as much time deemed necessary to fulfill this position.



Andy Wagner (Candidate): Public participation should be encouraged at every board meeting. Also, more discussions among board members should be done during public portions of board meetings and not behind closed doors.



Adrienne Witteman (Candidate): No matter what my views are on any particular subject I am always willing to hear both sides to make the best informed decisions. A different perspective may be what is needed to come to the best possible outcome and still feel like everyone's voices are being heard. It takes a community to raise a child and it is important for us to focus on what is important to them including taking pride in their community. Teaching them this now will build better leaders for the future.

Candidates running for **Cory-Rawson Local School District Member of Board of Education** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Brent Thomas

Riverdale Local School District Member of Board of Education

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Ashley Walters (Candidate): My motivating factors in running for Riverdale Board of Education are my children, our community and a desire to help an already great school become the best it can be. I have two children that attend Riverdale and it is important to me that the school thrive and grow in a positive direction. If elected, I will continuously search for ways to help our teachers and staff be prepared and equipped to educate our children in an ever changing world.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?



Ashley Walters (Candidate): There are many important priorities that I feel need to be addressed, should I be elected in November. Bridging the gap and instilling a sense of trust between the board of education and the community is one. Ensuring that our hard-earned tax dollars are being used in an appropriate manner is another. Also, it is very important to ensure the values, ethics, and traditions that have already been built are maintained in our school. As a community, I recommend being involved by attending school board meetings and other school related events. Reach out to your school board members and communicate concerns and suggestion on topics. The board is in place to represent the community. To do so, they need to know your opinions on matters. This allows them to vote accordingly.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?



Ashley Walters (Candidate): I will ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully. In doing this, I will encourage open lines of communication between parents, teachers and residents of our district with board members. I am fully committed to making myself available to listen to all.

Candidates running for **Riverdale Local School District Member of Board of Education** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Rick Clark, Derek Dailey, Laura A. Leopold

Van Buren Local School District Member of Board of Education

Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



Melinda K. Williams (Incumbent): Being of service has always been a guiding principle in my life, so my primary motivation to run for re-election to the Van Buren BOE was to give back to my community to ensure that other families have the same opportunities for success that mine have experienced by attending Van Buren. My roots in the VB community run deep: my 81-year-old mother graduated from VB, as did I. Both my kids were Black Knights, each earning their diploma from VB. I am a strong proponent of public education. My mom was a public-school teacher, as was my grandfather, so I have seen first-hand the work required by teachers to help our children become successful. I'm very proud of our district and as a board member have had the opportunity to create and support the many positive accomplishments of the district. Given the positive momentum by our district, I'm motivated to stay involved, ensuring continued, forward movement to tackle the items that remain unaddressed. It has been my honor to serve the VB district.



Michael Leifheit (Incumbent): The main reason to attempt a reelection to the Van Buren school board is to continue to help push the district in a positive direction. I want to continue to help Van Buren be a district that people want to be a part of and want to send their kids to our school.

Q. What are the most important priorities that you feel need to be set, should you win in November? Of those priorities, what would you recommend we do – as a community – to address them?

NO
PHOTO
PROVIDED

Melinda K. Williams (Incumbent): Offering robust academic opportunities for all our students, while supporting our athletics and art programs. Our facilities must be safe, fostering creativity, learning and community. Supporting our district staff and expecting excellent professionalism, is key. As stakeholders, we can support legislation that provides fair school funding for our district. On a local level, continue to support levies, as our VB community has so graciously done. Transparency and communication are important. Recently, the school administration worked with the VB BOE to develop a strategic plan. We had significant community involvement in its formulation. Community members can attend monthly board meetings; volunteer to serve on district committees. Financial stewardship is a priority. We have been able to move our district off the Ohio Department of Education's Fiscal Watch list by addressing items recommended in the Performance Audit and passing a levy. To be a good financial steward one must stay abreast of changes to school funding formulas and the district's financial forecast. The community can help by advocating for public education and being involved in district meetings.



Michael Leifheit (Incumbent): The most important priority if I would win a seat on the school board is to continue to push the district in the direction that it seems to be going right now. I would want to hold the superintendent and treasure accountable for their strategic plans and goals. I would also want to continue to push for as much transparency and open public dialogue as possible between the school and people living in the district.

Q. In what ways will you ensure that all voices in our community are represented fully in order to make the most informed decisions about the priorities that you believe are important to our community?

NO
PHOTO
PROVIDED

Melinda K. Williams (Incumbent): As a mental health counselor, I'm trained to have empathy, respect and to listen to diverse opinions. For this reason, I have an open-door policy, encouraging constructive dialogue. I don't have all the answers, but I promise to find the person that does. I believe that we can learn from one another, that differing opinions should be heard and respected. I strongly believe that we have more in common, than not. I encourage district members to reach out, make your voices heard. You can email me at: mwilliams@vbschools.net. I invite folks to come to our board meetings: the third Thursday of every month at 7 pm. District members can access the agenda, can speak at the meetings and can also leave online comments to be read aloud by our President. As a board member, I try to make decisions based on what's in the best interest of the students, today and into the future. If given the honor to serve again, I will continue to strive to be of service to our district.



Michael Leifheit (Incumbent): I will continue to be visible and present at schools events (since my kids are active in several of these) as well as taking part in and helping with extracurricular activities. I will be present at community and church events as well. This will give me the opportunity to be available for comments from the community. I will also continue to be available through the email account that is provided on the Van Buren School webpage.

Candidates running for **Van Buren Local School District Member of Board of Education** who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Melanie Adams, Diane M. Boguski, Jamie Lynn Cunningham, Laura Ebright, Andy Fisher, Shelly K. Hindall

The Chamber Encourages You to Review the Entire Ballot

Please be informed and carefully review all of the issues on the November 2nd ballot for Hancock County.

A complete list can be found at HancockBoardofElections.com.

1 50 NORTH

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Hancock County, for the purpose of providing or maintaining senior citizen's services or facilities by the Hancock County Agency on Aging, now known as 50 North, at a rate not exceeding 1.2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to twelve cents (\$0.12) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of five (5) years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

2 FOSTORIA CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

The amendment to the Charter of the City of Fostoria changes the form of government of the City of Fostoria from a Council-Mayor government to a Council-City Manager form. The Mayor-President of Council will be elected as one officer who shall preside over Council meetings, appoint committees, boards and commissioners with the approval of Council, cast a vote to break ties in Council votes. The Mayor-President of Council shall not have the power to veto legislation. City Council will consist of the same four wards and three at-large Council members. Council will hire a City Manager who will manage the day-to-day affairs of the City including managing the department heads of various departments. Department heads and employees shall receive direction from the City Manager and the members of council are barred from interfering with or giving separate direction to the City departments under management by the City Manager. The Law Director and Auditor (Director of Finance) will hereafter be appointed with the approval of Council by the City Manager. Both officer's duties will be essentially as set forth in the current Charter. Those qualified persons residing in Hancock, Seneca and Wood County will be eligible for appointment to these positions. The amendment will also provide for a separate department of parks and recreation managed by a separately appointed board.

3 ARLINGTON VILLAGE

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (REPLACEMENT)

A replacement of a tax for the benefit of the Village of Arlington for the purpose of providing for parks and recreational purposes at a rate not exceeding 2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.20 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

4 AMANDA TOWNSHIP

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Amanda Township, Hancock County, Ohio, for the purpose of providing fire protection to the residents of Amanda Township, at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.15 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of five (5) years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

5 ADA EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSED INCOME TAX (RENEWAL)

Shall an annual income tax of 3/4% on the school district income of individuals and of estates be imposed by the Ada Exempted Village School District to renew an income tax expiring at the end of 2022, for 5 years, beginning January 1, 2023, for the purpose of current operating expenses of the School District?

6 ADA PUBLIC LIBRARY

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Ada Public Library for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.10 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

7 NORTHWEST HANCOCK JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District, for the purpose of fire protection, at a rate not exceeding 2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.20 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of five (5) years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

8 PMP JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the PMP Joint Ambulance District, for the purpose of providing ambulance service, at a rate not exceeding 4.4 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.44 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of three (3) years, commencing in tax year 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.

9 ALDI INC. SUNDAY SALES

SPECIAL ELECTION BY PETITION

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by Aldi, Inc., Ohio, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit, who is engaged in the business of operating a grocery store at 2227 Tiffin Avenue, Findlay, Ohio 45840 in this precinct?