



VOTER REPORT

Candidates Respond to Important Questions Impacting Local Businesses

March 19, 2024: Primary Election
State Representative (83rd District)

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.

Q. What were the primary motivations and driving factors that led you to decide to run for public office?



Jon Cross*: From the initial launch of my campaign for public office in 2018 and after serving three terms in the Ohio House, my guiding mission continues to be “to keep Ohio, and the 83rd District, safer, stronger, and open for business.” My past professional work experience in real estate development and economic and workforce development is fundamental to supporting a pro-business agenda to keep Ohio competitive for continued growth and prosperity and to keep Ohio open for business. My commonsense and compassionate conservative values drive my passion to protect our individual rights and freedoms. And my passion to keep our communities safer and economically stronger are based upon making sure our children and grandchildren can enjoy living, learning, working, and loving Northwest Ohio like we all do.



Ty Mathews: As was my desire and motivation that compels me to serve our country as a military officer, I have a strong resolve to serve my local area citizens and communities. I believe there is a great need and opportunity to restore peoples’ trust and confidence in government and state institutions. As a U.S. Army officer in the Ohio National Guard, I routinely see firsthand how a servant leadership commitment and practice earns the trust and confidence of the American people. That same level of trust and confidence can also be earned and achieved with our state institutions.



Sheila M. Coressel: I grew up in Northwest Ohio, surrounded by corn and soybeans, in a working class family. I remember spending summer playing outside, riding my bike around the block, and camping on the weekends. My parents ensured that we didn’t know we were in a working class family. My parents knew of my passion for education and encouraged me to pursue a college education. I spent the past 20 plus years learning the importance of compromise and collaboration through my several positions in higher education. Over the past several years, I became more involved with my local democratic party and eventually ran for and was elected to the Ada Village Council. Over the past four years, I’ve seen what the local government can do for their members. I want to support community members with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. I’m confident that my experiences will be an asset at the state house and I will be able to represent the members of the 83rd district with integrity and compassion.

Q. What are your priorities or concerns for your community?



Jon Cross*: My priorities and concerns for the community are the things I hear every day from the people of the 83rd District. People yearn for a voice at the Statehouse. For too long I believe that Columbus and Central Ohio have received too much of the attention when it comes to economic development. And, while we are so blessed here in Findlay to host both successful small businesses and major corporations, Findlay-Hancock County deserves to always be in the conversation when it comes to bringing in the next major investment in Ohio. That's why I was proud to lead the discussions in the state operating budget to enact the All Ohio Future Fund and Rural Broadband Expansion to make sure that every corner of the state, especially right here in Hancock County, can attract the jobs of the future. Additionally, I will continue to work with law enforcement to help keep our communities safe. Border security at a national level is also a major concern that has and will impact the safety of our own communities.



Ty Mathews: As outlined above, I am focused on restoring peoples' trust and confidence in our state government and institutions. I also hope to inspire and challenge others to serve our communities within the 83rd District with volunteerism and engagement. Additionally, I intend to help government and law enforcement become proactive in ensuring the safety, protection, and privacy of 83rd District (and Ohio) citizens related to numerous emerging dangers and threats presented by nefarious use of drones and AI (artificial intelligence). Furthermore, I would like to facilitate initiatives and legislation to phase out state income taxes over the next eight years and eliminate school district taxing for Ohioans who have retired.



Sheila M. Coressel: As your representative, I will fight to ensure accessible and affordable healthcare, invest public money into all levels of public education, and support our local businesses and family farms. Personal experience tells me that our healthcare system is slowly becoming less accessible to those who need it. I am a product of quality public education, at all levels, and want public education and training for all Ohioans. I grew up surrounded by the beauty of the farmlands and know that agriculture shaped our district. I will seek guidance from senior general assembly members and work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to write legislation that will protect healthcare, public education, and local agriculture and industry in the 83rd.

Q. What steps will you take to actively listen to the concerns and perspectives of all community members, including those with differing opinions?



Jon Cross*: While I have always been strong in my beliefs and conservative values, I also know how important it is to hear all sides of an issue. As your State Representative, I represent each and every one of you at the Statehouse, and I will always remain accessible and open to the people of the 83rd house district. An example of good community engagement is hosting district office hours to give community members a chance to locally engage one-on-one with me to discuss their supporting or opposing views, assist with state casework, or to discuss ideas and solutions. I take my role very seriously as your State Representative, and it's why my office prides itself in working with all constituents and local leaders to deliver the results we need.



Ty Mathews: A State Representative serves everyone in the District and listens to all, not just those of a particular political party. Furthermore, good decisions are made when input is welcomed from many different viewpoints. I will be accessible and invite communications from the citizens of the 83rd Ohio House District as well as be visible and engaged with activities and events throughout the District.



Sheila M. Coressel: I am open to meeting with any community member to listen to their concerns and perspectives. Questions I ask will be geared towards gaining understanding of the community members' concerns. Listening and understanding are the cornerstone of gaining a broader perspective of our communities' needs.

Q. How do you plan to engage with local businesses to understand their concerns and gather input when making decisions that may impact them?



Jon Cross*: I have a strong relationship with the business community here in Hancock County. And to build those relationships, I have worked very hard to be active, visible, and connected in the district. I'm often touring businesses, hosting local meetings, engaging with both employers and employees, as well as remaining an active member of the local chamber and economic development organizations. In addition, as a member of House Leadership and the House Finance Committee, I have the unique view to see how some communities in Ohio are thriving, but others are falling behind. My pro-business, pro-family record has proven I'm up for the challenge to reconcile the competing interests and deliver for both circumstances. As a former chamber and economic development professional, I saw first-hand every day what is needed to make a business thrive here locally. This experience has given me the tools and relationships necessary to make sure our communities are in a strong position to promote our small businesses, while also being prepared for the next big investments.



Ty Mathews: I will be accessible and invite communications from businesses throughout the District as well as participate in business activities and events. I will also be available to visit businesses throughout the District, tour facilities, and interact directly with business owners and employees.



Sheila M. Coressel: I will work on becoming involved in the Chambers of Commerce in the district. When it is possible, I will attend chamber events, along with union events. I am interested in hearing the owners and the workers of our local businesses to see how I can support them at the state level.

Q. What specific strategies and initiatives would you champion to effectively increase engagement and communication with the people you represent and/or protect, ensuring their voices and concerns are heard and addressed?



Jon Cross*: I believe that my three terms as your State Representative should serve as a strong example of what good, conservative, pro-business, pro-family leadership can accomplish. It has been an immense privilege to serve you in the Ohio Statehouse and to bring results back home here in Hancock County. I'm proud to say I have been able to have 12 of my bills signed into law and have championed the return of over \$100 million of our tax dollars back to the 83rd district, ensuring your taxpayer funds you send to Columbus are working for you. With regards to the Ohio Redistricting initiatives, I've also fought hard during the redistricting process to make sure Hancock County did NOT get split in separate districts. You deserve to know who your legislators are, and having consistent maps over the next several years will help keep giving you, the people, a strong voice in the Ohio General Assembly.



Ty Mathews: Being readily accessible to citizens within the District is the primary strategy to foster engagement and communication. Participation in community and business activities and events throughout the District is also critical. I will also use as many communication tools as necessary to reach citizens, keep them up to date on what's going on in the State Legislature and invite input.



Sheila M. Coressel: This is something I've been thinking about for some time. My initial thoughts include having regular town halls throughout the district at various times of the day throughout the year. I am frustrated when I see representatives or senators coming to the area for open meetings with constituents, but they are between 9am-5pm during the week. As someone who works a full-time position during these times, I have not been able to attend these meetings. I envision having these meetings during the work day, evenings, and weekends. This would allow any constituent to attend at least one. I know this isn't the only way to learn from my future constituents. I would also work on establishing a way for the community members to provide feedback on possible bills. This may look like a form for members to quickly respond with multiple choice options, but also an opportunity to provide feedback.

The full slate of **candidates running for State Representative (83rd District)** include: Jon Cross (*=Incumbent), Ty Mathews, and Sheila M. Coressel.

The Chamber Encourages You to Review the Entire Ballot

Please be informed and carefully review all of the issues on the March 19th ballot for Hancock County. A complete list (and ballot text) can be found at HancockBoardofElections.com.

Local Issues

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| Issue 1 : Arcadia LSD | Renewal of 2.5 mills for the purpose of avoiding an operating deficit for 4 years |
| Issue 2 : Arcadia LSD | Annual income tax of 1% for 5 years for the purpose of current operating expenses |
| Issue 3 : Bluffton EVSD | Renewal 3.541 Mills for 5 years for the purpose of avoiding an operating deficit |
| Issue 4 : Riverdale LSD | Additional 2.0 Mills for the purpose of general permanent improvements for a continuing period of time |
| Issue 5 : Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities | Renewal 2.50 Mills for the purpose of providing for the operation of community programs and services authorized by county boards of developmental disabilities, for the acquisition, construction, renovation financing, maintenance, and operation of developmental disabilities facilities for 5 years |
| Issue 6 : Hancock Park District | Replacement 0.8 Mill for the purpose of maintaining, improving, developing and promoting the Hancock Park System, conserving natural resources, acquiring additional parks and developing new recreational facilities as the Hancock Park District Board of Park Commissioners deems appropriate, and enabling the Hancock Park District to support parks and recreational facilities owned or operated by townships, villages, and cities located throughout Hancock County for 8 years |