

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE OBERLIN AREA

Voter Guide 2009 General Election Tuesday, Nov. 3

Oberlin City Council Oberlin Area School Board Issues Voting District Map

Non-partisan voting information on the candidates and issues compiled by the League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area and supported through the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

The League of Women Voters, founded in 1920, is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse candidates for office. The inclusion of a candidate's information in the Voter Guide is for the sole purpose of informing the public and does not constitute or imply League endorsement of any candidate or statement. The League does not alter, edit, correct or evaluate any candidate's reply and each candidate is solely responsible for the accuracy and truth of his or her statement.

Find more information at www.lwvoa.com

OBERLIN CITY COUNCIL

Elect 7

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order and their information appears exactly as it was submitted to the LWVO.

1. Do you believe Oberlin should be a leader in the Green movement? If not, please explain the reasons for your position. If yes, please give specific suggestions for how to implement this.
2. The current City Council voted in February 2008 to withdraw from the AMP Generating Station project. As that project was intended to supply much of Oberlin's future need for base-load power, what steps do you propose taking in the next two years help meet Oberlin's need for base-load (24x7) electric power? How can the city continue to provide affordable, reliable electricity to all residents of the city?
3. What kind of development is needed for Oberlin? What is the city's role in stimulating development; for example, in encouraging in-fill housing in the southeast quadrant of the city? How would you implement your ideas?

DAVID R. ASHENHURST

Education: public elementary and high schools in Chicago, Illinois; B.A. in 1975 in English and philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia; also some graduate work at Temple University in Philadelphia

Experience and Training: more than 25 years' experience in grantmaking and nonprofit administration and association management; two terms on the Oberlin Human Relations Commission; member of the Charter Review Committee in 2003-04; seeking third term on City Council

Current Occupation: consultant to public and nonprofit organizations in fund-raising, communications, advocacy, and management

Response to questions:

1. Leadership implies "followership," and I'm not sure I care if we're followed in this respect or not. I'm also not sure if I would characterize what Oberlin has done and is doing as being a "leader" in the Green movement. I think Oberlin should continue to seize every opportunity to pursue a sustainable future, as it understands that (or as its understanding continues to evolve), as rapidly but judiciously as it can, and whether it finds others following in its footsteps or not. My most specific suggestion, therefore, is to continue to lead by its well-considered, thoroughly debated example.

2. The administration has recently reported on steps it has already taken to begin securing alternative baseload power in 2012, and we will receive the Black & Veatch report before the election to help guide future decision-making. The price of the AMP Generating Station continues to rise, and the timeline continues to be extended; it's not clear it will meet its own deadline of 2012. At very worst, we will establish some short-term market-coal contracts over two years that

will give us more time to address the longer-term needs; the lights will not go out in Oberlin in 2012.

3. I continue believing Oberlin should seek only appropriate, durable, sustainable development. In the current climate, that means, in part, residential neighborhood REdevelopment and judicious in-fill development. It means transit-oriented or conservation development in outlying areas, pedestrian-friendly and mixed-use development in the City's core. In the commercial sphere, it means re-filling Station Square and the Industrial Park, and attracting robust businesses for undeveloped sites in commercial areas. The City's role is to be enterprising in seeking state and Federal assistance where they are available, and flexible in facilitating other funding arrangements to the extent both prudent and possible.

H. SCOTT BROADWELL

Education: Oberlin High School, 1974, BGSU BA, 1982

Experience and Training: 1st term Oberlin City Council 2007-2009

Current Occupation: Painting contractor – Broadwell Painting

Response to questions:

1. The City of Oberlin is and will remain a leader in the green movement. Oberlin already receives about 20% of its electrical power from renewable sources, such as the Belleville Hydroelectric Project, wind turbines in Bowling Green and methane gas from the landfill. With the addition of the new hydroelectric facilities being developed by American Municipal Power, this will increase our percentage of renewables to about 25%.

With City Council's recent motion to support Oberlin College's proposed Green Arts District and by attracting green industry, the City of Oberlin will remain a leader in the green movement.

2. Because of our withdrawal from participation in AMP's Generating Station project, Oberlin will be facing a huge baseload power shortage in 2013. That shortage will need to be met by scarce renewable power sources or by the purchase of coal-based power on the open market. We need to look for renewable power sources whenever possible while remaining aware that, at least in the short term, we still will need to depend upon coal-based power because of cost constraints and its availability.

3. The City, while supporting well planned development in the southern sector, must continue to provide assistance to our core downtown commercial district. Through community development block grants, by supporting the Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Oberlin, seeing through the completion of the East College Street Project, and encouraging residents to shop locally and sustainably as much as possible the City will continue to foster economic development.

BRYAN L. BURGESS

Education: Oberlin High School Class of 1997, BA Business Computer Systems New Mexico State University 2001

Experience: Oberlin Resource Conservation and Recovery Commission, 2.5 years (I currently serve as Chairman of this commission); Oberlin Public Utilities Commission, 1.5 years (I

currently serve as Chairman of this commission). I enjoy gardening, sailing, and organizing the Ohio Solar Tour in Lorain County (Oct. 4th). My wife Amy and I have been married 7 years, our son Owen is 2 years old

Current Occupation: Renewable Energy Contractor, Owner of Burgess Electric LLC

Response to questions:

1. Despite all the environmental damage wrought by coal, society has tolerated it for lack of a better alternative. After thoroughly studying a wide range of energy sources, Oberlin City Council concluded that there are indeed viable alternatives to coal fired electricity. In my capacity on the Public Utilities Commission, I have spent the last 18 months investigating renewable "green" sources of power for Oberlin. I believe Oberlin must be aggressive in establishing green power contracts and decisively reject coal fired electricity. Oberlin is, and will continue to be, a leader in the "green" movement.

2. As the investigation of Oberlin's future energy supply has progressed, I have become increasingly confident in our ability to provide residents and businesses with affordable and stable rates from green energy sources. Most surprising have been the unsolicited offers of green power from providers who just happened to hear of our imminent need for electricity. What exciting prospects will Oberlin be presented with when we issue requests for proposals? It is no longer a question of *if* we can power Oberlin renewably but why didn't we do it sooner.

3. Oberlin's resilience throughout the current recession is due in part to this community's commitment to responsible development. As a business owner, I know that in order to be successful it is imperative to embrace a longterm vision and not simply focus on the day-to-day activities. Tax incentives and zoning requirements can be used to promote the redevelopment of existing property while simultaneously discouraging urban sprawl. As a member of council, I will actively recruit new and innovative businesses and work collaboratively with developers to keep Oberlin a vibrant place to live and work.

FRANK S. CARLSON (Withdraw)

ROBERT A. "TONY" GAINES

Education:

Experience and Training:

Current Occupation:

Response to questions:

1. Yes. I believe that we should be a leader in the Green Movement. I, however, believe that we should not move without thorough research into the long term benefits to our city. I believe that wind and solar are options for future power. I believe that having proper codes in place for current and future buildings is important. With each one of these are several options, which is best for Oberlin. We need to research each and make sure we make the right choices for now and in the future.

2. Currently our leaders at OMLP are in the middle of a study to find what direction is correct for the citizens of Oberlin. I do believe that withdrawing from the AMP generating station project when we did was premature and may be costly to the citizens of Oberlin in the near future. Was it the right decision? It may be. I think that we also may be stuck with something that is costly and more no green because we had nothing in place prior to making our decision to withdraw. I think that in the future there be more green options available, what do we do in the mean time, HOPE FOR THE BEST?

Affordable power is important for all citizens, where do we draw the line. We must remember that sometimes what's affordable to one may mean lights or no food for another. Sometimes moving towards a goal is a process not a race.

3. We need housing development, business development and parking. Yes I believe that the city must take a leading role in attracting new businesses and housing development to our city. We must first make sure that both our comprehensive and strategic plans are complete and in place. These plans we afford us the opportunity to make informed decisions. We also must make sure that we have ample parking available for our downtown businesses. Currently parking is at a premium with no viable plan in place.

With housing we must make sure that we have housing development plans in place to accommodate all income groups. We can't make the mistake in placing all low cost development in one section of town, all middle income housing in another section of town. We should combine variety of housing styles in different areas of town, diversity.

ELIZABETH J. MEADOWS

Education: Bachelor's Degree from Ohio University - Athens. I majored in English and minored in Government.

Experience and Training: While working in public transportation, I learned the importance of functioning productively as a part of a team. Over the course of twenty years, I held positions in Human Resources, Legal, Management Training and Rail Operations departments. Concurrently, I instructed adults in remedial language skills.

Current Occupation: Presently, I work part-time at the Lorain Public Library as the Adult Literacy Coordinator and part-time at the Lorain County Urban League as Education and Youth Development Coordinator.

Response to Questions:

1. I believe Oberlin should continue its conservation efforts with heavy emphasis on achieving energy efficiency. Programs that educate residents and business owner in benefits of efficient uses of energy help facilitate Oberlin's place in the Green movement.

2. Several steps can be employed to address Oberlin's future need for base-load power. Oberlin must secure its power supply from multiple sources. The OMPLS's 4/14/2009 report to Council outlines the feasibility of wind, hydroelectric, solar, etc. Oberlin must investigate cities of similar size that have successfully developed and implemented renewable sources of energy. Studying

these model cites can provide opportunities for Oberlin to adopt and adapt some of their strategies and practices.

3. Oberlin's ability to thrive should include development plans that make this an attractive place to conduct and attract new businesses. Development for our residential neighborhoods should include resources to restore and maintain existing housing while attracting new housing development.

ANTHONY J. MEALY

Education: Northwestern High, Hyattsville, Maryland; Attended University of Maryland, North Carolina State, Baldwin-Wallace College and hold a Corrections Officers Certificate from Ashland University '92; Graduate of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) Inspector's Program, Tucson, Arizona '95.

Experience: Anthony J. Mealy has been involved in our civic affairs for the past forty years. His understanding of the issues as an Oberlin City Councilman, past Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Treasurer and Board Member of the Oberlin Community Improvement Corporation will contribute to the enhancement of our community.

Occupation: Twice retired with 21+ years State Service and 27+ years Federal Service.

Response to questions:

1. Oberlin is a leader in the "green" movement when you consider that we are far ahead of most communities in Ohio with 17% clean energy assets in Hydroelectric, Wind and Methane generation. As a Councilman in December 2007 I voted to authorize our Electric Utility to enter into a venture with AMP Ohio to achieve a goal of 25% clean generation with the additional 3 Hydro Projects on the Ohio River. The issue facing Oberlin is leadership and the current council's failure to secure base-load power after 2010. I remain committed to finding viable "green" solution to our future power needs.

2. The City is currently waiting for a study by the professional electric consulting group Black & Veatch who are to present a 20 year plan for our future power needs. I will want to review their findings before making any commitment to Oberlin's need for base-load (24x7) affordable, reliable electric power.

3. Oberlin should be thinking regionally about economic development. Prospective employers will not want to move into communities with a perceived poor educational system nor one that fails to produce a competitive workforce. Oberlin needs to support and work with business and industry to establish a strong relationship with our local schools, vocational institution, public library and Oberlin College to set realistic goals to achieve the desired results. In-fill housing should only be done where appropriate and should not be limited to the southeast quadrant. A number of homes have been demolished over the years because of flooding and poor drainage throughout the city.

AARON MUCCIOLO

Education: Oberlin College, B.A. (Politics and Theater), 2002.

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, no degree, 2004.

Experience and training: Prior to starting my own business, I worked for three years in fundraising, including volunteer management, strategic planning, and executing full-scale campaigns. I've also worked in theater production for over a decade, trained in many aspects of web and graphic design and communications, and taught both to students at the high school and college level.

Current Occupation: Web designer, writer, consultant (self employed).

Response to questions:

1. Saving energy means saving money – sometimes even making money in reward for 'going green'. We need a city administration that continues to seek options from the innovative people here in town, at the College, and elsewhere: free home energy audits now; wind power in the future. Free compact florescent lightbulbs for every home that wants them. A community garden that can stock our stores cheaply and keep us healthy. We can't jump at every shiny possibility, but we can't sit still either – it's wrong for our kids and grandkids, and it's increasingly wrong for our own bottom line.

2. The issue here is, understandably, cost. Market based power (the simplest, 'do-nothing' alternative), and alternative energy sources look like they cost more, and will continue to cost more, than signing a long term coal contract. From the numbers released so far, though, the added cost ranges from \$20-\$100 a year for a typical home – and that could easily drop. Still, higher costs are higher costs – unless they are offset. Reducing demand, by CFLs and other easy fixes, is one way. Selling our existing green-energy credits at market rate, then subsidizing residents' utility bills, is another.

3. Residential development needs to be discussed at length in the neighborhoods affected. Our near-term planning should start with business growth, the engine driving tax revenues and paying jobs to town. First, we need a friendlier climate to attract new businesses – friendly meaning permits, expectations, and guidelines made accessible and understandable. Tax breaks need to be an option too. Second, we have to continue to attract visitors. Our arts and culture are key to good publicity, but we can't skip nuts and bolts issues: How can parking function more smoothly? Are our signage regulations helping or hurting?

CHARLES F. PETERSON

Education: B.A. Morehouse College (1992); M.A. State University of New York (Philosophy, 1995); Ph.D. State University of New York (Philosophy, 2000)

Experience: 3-term City Councilman (2004-present) served as liaison to the Human Relations Commission, Open Spaces Commission, Underground Rail Road Design Team, and various City Council sub committees

Current Occupation: Associate Professor of Africana Studies, Cultural Area Studies, Program Chair, The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH

Response to questions:

1. I firmly believe Oberlin should be and is a leader in the Green movement. The City of Oberlin has already begun its implementation of this leadership by divesting from the new AMP-GS coal burning plant and devoting its resources to studying the possibilities of future sustainable energy sources. The City is invested in Hydro and Wind energy projects through AMP-Ohio. On the economic front the city has committed to constructing sustainable and energy efficient public buildings in the pursuit of LED certified standards. The City of Oberlin has provided support for green building projects through the use of Tax Incremental Finance and has implemented economic development policies which are attracting green energy businesses and jobs. The city continues to promote and support programs which allow citizens to upgrade their homes to achieve higher energy efficiency standards.

2. Oberlin's entrance in to the base load energy market will be a challenge. The city's focus must be to access base load power in the near future and prepare, long term, for the expansion of the sustainable energy market. I propose and have supported two studies exploring the possibilities of expanded sustainable energy sources for the City of Oberlin. In the mean time the city has begun an aggressive exploration of avenues of sustainable energy sources, meeting with representatives from wind and bio gas power producers. The city has also supported programs designed to increase energy efficiency in Oberlin homes. It is my belief that Oberlin has the distinct advantage of publicly owned utilities which allows for public control in the setting of priorities, adjustment of rate scales and shaping of policies. The city has developed but should explore expanded forms of support for low income residents, and the feasibility of sliding rate scales/progressive energy rates in order to aid all residents.

3. The most important type of development Oberlin needs is economic development. The city has and should take on a supportive role for local business through the use of Tax Incremental Financing, Community Development Block Grants for downtown development, aggressive business recruitment and the creation of supportive economic fast tracks (grants/loans and tax repeals) for new businesses. An expanded tax base (income and property) must be a part of job creation, which ultimately benefits our citizens in the areas home ownership. Implementation has and must occur through discussions with the City administration, fellow City Council Members and members of the Oberlin community

KATE PILACKY

Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts, Kent State University

Experience and Training: Appointed April 18, 2005 to Oberlin Open Space Commission, Chair since November 2008; Oberlin Design Review Committee, since January 2008; Community Organizer: founded Firelands Land Conservancy in December 1997; the FLC merged into Western Reserve Land Conservancy January 1, 2006, protected 2700-acres of land in the Firelands; 2000 – 2002 Program director, Organize!Ohio; 1999 –2000 executive director, Citizen League of Lorain County; past Advisory Board of Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Fund; Rockwood Leadership Training 2005; accomplished artist with art exhibits throughout Ohio since 1990; painted an ENERGY mural for the Union of Concerned Scientists in 1991.

Current Occupation: associate field director, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Firelands

Response to questions:

1. It is in the City's and College's best interest to be innovative and be ahead of the game using existing technology. The time is now for Oberlin to be a leader in promoting energy efficiency and green building standards, as well as green manufacturing industry, including building parts for wind turbines and solar cells. Being a green, more livable community will help Oberlin retain knowledge makers. We must work towards making NE Ohio into a center for innovation and being the economic engine of the future. Sustainability is the business opportunity of this period in time. Let's not miss our chance.

2. Energy efficiency is the most affordable way to address our energy consumption. A large percentage of energy consumed is wasted – leaking out of drafty windows, using old appliances, lighting, etc. The College can be a partner in creating a solution. Students can research public funding opportunities and other ways to make homes and businesses in the city more energy efficient. Specific opportunities include expanding the use of wind power that can be generated and purchased, the capture of methane gas trapped in landfills, and exploring gasification options among others. The key is looking for smaller, efficient local options that will employ local people.

3. Oberlin is a city that is rich in culture. We are home to museums, arts, one-of-a-kind businesses, and a premier college. We need a comprehensive marketing plan that would capitalize on our city's attributes. In challenging economic times, we must be dedicated to keeping our downtown businesses vibrant, while looking forward to opportunities like establishing an Underground Railroad museum. My organization's office is in the southside of Oberlin. This area can continue to grow green businesses such as the Land Conservancy and Full Circle Fuels. Strategic planning should provide for smart development and new structures should complement existing architecture.

KENNETH SLOANE

Education: PA State University (mathematics); Theodore Steinway Technical Institute (Steinway Piano training Department)

Experience and Training: Served four terms on council 1996 - 2003. On board of Oberlin Sustainable Agricultural Project five years, three as President. Member of board that started Oberlin Youth Soccer Association. Helped form Lorain County Soccer League. Helped form Oberlin Farmers Market and served as volunteer manager for three years. Served on Oberlin Resource Recovery commission and currently serve on Open Space and Visual Environment commission.

Current Occupation: Piano technician/tuner and rebuilder

Response to Questions:

1. Yes! Expand on Oberlin's current commitment to buying renewable power. Our electric provider, Amp Ohio, supplies more renewable power than any other Ohio, electric company. We currently purchase power through them generated from hydro, landfill gas and wind. In fact, a large component of Amp Ohio's landfill gas generation comes from our local landfill, a project I was instrumental in starting while serving on the 1996/7 council. We also need to initiate

programs to make Oberlin pedestrian friendly. For example, the national program designed to get children walking or riding bikes to school, "safe routes to school" is one such initiative.

2. In many ways the question is a moot point. In absence of any contract's Oberlin's municipal power company can sign by itself or through Amp Ohio for power (renewable or otherwise) that can be considered as baseload, we will rely on Amp Ohio's ability to buy power for us off the grid. In the latter case, we probably will be using power generated from coal dirtier than the power from the new Amp Ohio facility (87% of Ohio's electricity comes from coal), and who knows what the price will be?

3. Continue with the city's current use of grant money to buy lots for low income housing in established neighborhoods (in-filling) and partnering with groups that specialize in securing the funds and developing contracts for building the homes. In the last decade the city has built many attractive homes in this fashion. We also need to be pro-active in selling our city's many cultural and social amenities to attract quality employment opportunities to the area. The combination of more jobs and the increased tax revenue they bring is unbeatable.

DAVID E. SONNER

Education: Ohio State, Cleveland State, LCCC. No degree

Experience and Training: Member off council, 1971-1979; 2007-present.

Various Oberlin City commissions.

Current Occupation: Real Estate Broker, licensed since 1966.

Response to Questions:

1. It is unacceptable that Oberlin- Oberlin!- could be laggard in doing its part in the struggle to prevent the cooking of the planet, especially when taking the lead in this global-sized battle will bestow important immediate and lasting advantages upon us.

Let us apply all deliberate speed to becoming "the first regional model of a prosperous and sustainable post-carbon economy formed around the restoration of.....the existing downtown as well as a transition to zero-carbon energy sources the creation of new green jobs in energy technology, energy services, sustainable agriculture, and forestry..."

2. City government, through our publicly-owned electric utility (OMLPS), will provide affordable, reliable, and non-polluting power to Oberlin residents, businesses, and institutions, by, in part, long-term power purchase contracts obtained **NOW**, before the end of 2008, while prices favor buyers. Thereafter, an important portion of Oberlin's power requirement will be met by reducing that requirement through systematic energy conservation measures applied to every electricity use- residential, business, industrial, institutional, government. The greater part of the baseload and peakload source of power will be "home-grown" locally-generated "green" power, whether from landfill gas, plasma gasification, bio-mass, wind or solar. **POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**

3. City government is pledged to "encourage the local production of goods and services." Recent economic development successes include businesses begun by locals; by O.C. graduates, by "home-towners," Recent industrial ventures include medical technology, nano-technology, and solar

power.

City government is pledged to "promote and continue to maintain quality housing for all its citizens." What is appropriate housing development for Oberlin? Cheapo minimum standard housing, whether in tract projects, or scattered "in-fill" lots, is not. As there was been a rude, and costly interruption of the American dream of home ownership, affordable rental housing must now be encouraged.

SHARON FAIRCHILD SOUCY

Education: Graduated from Oberlin High School and Ohio Wesleyan University. Graduate work at Kent State University, Ohio State University and Indiana University.

Experience and Training: Thirty years as a professional educator working with the under-educated and under-employed of Lorain County to improve the quality of their lives. Four years experience as a member of Oberlin City Council.

Current member: Leadership Lorain County Class of 2000, League of Women Voters, NAACP, Oberlin Underground RR Vision Council, Meals on Wheels volunteer.

Current Occupation: Retired

Response to questions:

1. Absolutely, I believe Oberlin should be a leader in the Green movement. I am committed to reducing Oberlin's carbon footprint by seeking out alternative sources of energy such as methane, hydro, solar and wind. I believe all future construction should be Leed certified. I am working on a plan to provide city rebates not only for composters, but also for purchases of energy saving devices such as TV's, refrigerators, washers, dryers, hot water heaters, etc. I also would encourage the use of rain barrels or garden water, lawn water or car washing. Unfortunately, as the price of traditional fuels drops, many alternative energy projects are losing funding, and alternative sources of energy for the city that are both available and affordable are going to be increasing difficult to locate.

2. Unfortunately, the writer of this question is misinformed.* Oberlin City is an active, enthusiastic member of AMP-Ohio, an energy consortium of some 100 communities. What Oberlin withdrew from was the AMP-GS "clean" coal plant to be built in Southeastern Ohio. Our membership in AMP-Ohio is essential to our search for alternative fuels. It is only with the leadership of AMP-Ohio and our Electric Director, Steve Dupee, that we find ourselves in the enviable position of having an energy portfolio of nearly 25% green energy – hydro, wind, solar, and nuclear. AMP-Ohio as a matter of fact is the largest distributor of alternative energy in the state. Since 75% of our energy portfolio comes from fossil fuels, we will need to search hard to reduce that amount. Realistically, some of our energy will continue to come from fossil fuels off the open market that are easily available and affordable. Meanwhile we will struggle to look for other sources such as those from our nearby landfill which has the potential to harness additional methane as a clean burning fuel.

* Note: The candidate is responding to an earlier version of this question, which was imprecisely worded and was corrected for the Voter Guide.

3. Oberlin is experiencing a banner year in beneficial development. Compared to our surrounding communities, we have a number of dynamic projects; the Jazz Center, the SCA project, a new dorm on North Professor Street, a large firehouse addition as well as the renovation of the Apollo

theater. All of these are Leed certified. Our industrial park is a continuing challenge, but the city has secured Green Field Solar and the innovative consulting company Lawhead Software. The Southeast quadrant has benefitted from six new houses built with the help of New Sunrise Properties as well as a number of projects from Zion CDC and Power to strengthen existing homes and reduce energy losses. With the leadership of our Economic Director Tita Reid, our Planning Director Gary Boyle, and our City Manager Eric Norenberg, hopefully the new Council can continue to develop infill commercial and residential properties and to partner with the College to develop the Green Arts District.

OBERLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Elect 3

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order and their information appears exactly as it was submitted to the LWVO.

1. Are there any programs or services in the Oberlin School District that you would like to start? Any that you would like to stop? Please explain.
2. In what ways do you believe the International Baccalaureate will change the Oberlin schools?
3. How do you view your role and that of the school board in promoting civil discourse in the school district?

TRACIE L. HAYNES - No response received

GLENN HODGE

Education: Ohio State Univ 1975, BS

Experience and Training: Previous served as Oberlin City Recreation Director. Training included: conflict resolution, team development, workforce quality, globalization

Current Occupation: Retired

Response to questions:

1. I believe one of the most essential steps for school systems today is assuring the academic readiness of students. If I could start a new initiative it would be for our public schools to better connect with pre-K agencies, families and organizations in order to set consistent learning and entry expectations. In some cases students enter the school system far behind the knowledge and skills of their peers which causes numerous challenges for the teacher and the school system.
2. If we don't first address incoming Pre-K student standards and expected academic achievements, IB could separate the learning, knowledge and skills of more students due it is academic rigor. I suspect this will cause an even greater gap between high performers and students who are academically deficient. The Oberlin school system must engage in a holistic approach to change. Student readiness must be addressed for pre-K as well as at all levels of the academic system.
3. As a board member I must commit to creating an environment where certain behaviors are not tolerated. My role is set clear policies and guidelines for the district which promote civility and discussions for settling differences.

STEPHANIE JONES

Education: OHS graduate 1978, BA 1982 in Mass Media Arts from Hampton University

Experience and Training: Title I Asst. 2 yrs. Richmond, VA, Substitute teacher in Oberlin School 1996-2000

Current Occupation: Director of The Bridge – Oberlin’s Community Technology Center 2000 – present

Response to questions:

1. I would like to see the Oberlin School District hire a social worker for Oberlin High School. I believe that the students at the high school would benefit from having a trained person onsite that they could go to with their personal issues and problems. Many students do not have anywhere to turn and teenage years are a difficult time. We have social workers in the other buildings and I would like to see one at the high school level.

2. I believe that International Baccalaureate will help to renew the love of learning in many of our students. The board agreed to the IB programs as long as it was district wide and not just the IB diploma program so that all of the Oberlin students would be able to benefit from the program. The program brings new teaching methods that I believe will inspire and motivate the students to strive to reach their potential.

3. The school board has the obligation to let the community speak and address issues that are important to them. I believe it is our responsibility to listen with an open mind to all discussion whether we agree with them on a personal level or not and decide as a board if it is an issue that we should address. Everyone has the right to freedom of speech but it must be done in a civil manner. We as a board need to look at the issue and make decisions based on how it will impact the students and community as a whole and not just a small group.

BETH WEISS

Education: Bachelor of Music, Eastman School of Music 1986.

Experience and Training: seeking re-election to Oberlin City Schools. Served one term.

Occupation: Associate Director of Conservatory Admissions; Employer: Oberlin College
Family: Husband Tim Weiss, daughter Abby 16 and son Sam 14.

Response to questions:

1. I would like to increase our focus on wellness and nutrition. While many things have improved – at the high school soda/pop is out of the machines in the cafeteria, we have been getting produce locally when possible and salads are now an option everyday, there is still more to be done. I’d like to see more education at the younger grades regarding nutrition. In addition, we are also going to have an opportunity for some state money to help with new school facilities and we should consider/analyze a one-campus, carbon neutral school district.

2. The International Baccalaureate program will change the Oberlin schools by providing a more rigorous, multicultural curriculum for all the students K-12. Teacher training has already promoted a renewed excitement among the faculty and this new energy will energized classrooms. Students will follow an inquiry based learning process, which prompts them to ask “why?” and “what for?” which will promote deeper thinking and foster self-knowledge. It will

prepare a larger population of students to consider college and allow special needs children to grow further as well as encouraging all students to consider the wider world in which we live.

3. The school board meetings offer an opportunity for the public to express their views on many issues. During my tenure as president, I have presided over contentious meetings during which emotional issues such as uniforms, recitation of the pledge and minority hiring practices have been discussed. For the most part, we have had civil discussions regarding these issues, allowing the public to express their opinions within a respectful, mannered meeting format. We will continue to hear the public on these issues and will strive to maintain an atmosphere of civility for their discussion.

IAN YARBER

Education: Oberlin Sr. High school, Oberlin, OH; St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, VA. (Elementary Education); Youngstown State University, Youngstown, OH. (Elementary Education and Sports management)

Experience and Training: : Four (4) years Oberlin Board of Education Member, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Understanding Street Gangs, Behavioral Management, Early Intervention, Drug Awareness, Kid's You'll Move Mountains and Workplace Violence

Current Occupation: Recreation Coordinator for the City of Oberlin, OH.

Response to questions:

1. I would like to see a laptop computer program for students with learning disabilities. Laptops can be a bridge to literacy for students with learning disabilities. Studies have shown that laptops improve student engagement in the classroom. They help increase quality and quantity of writing and they improve class participation and interaction with other students. Laptops would also help learning disabled students become more personally organized as well as help students who normally need a lot more hands on instruction become more independent learners.

2. I believe one of the ways International Baccalaureate (IB) will change Oberlin schools is in our student's approach to learning. With IB students become more critical thinkers and relate what is going on in the classroom to what is going on in the world. IB will help Oberlin students respect others and become global learners. I also believe IB will help students develop a love of learning and it will help the schools become more student-centered learning environments.

3. I welcome citizen involvement and look forward to community members attending Board meetings and engaging the Board through dialogue. I also recognize that people don't always speak uniformly in nice, smooth, monotones and sometimes the passion for the issue they are advocating comes out in their speech. We must have the ability to be conversant with each other on topics that we don't always agree on and listen to different points of view. Whatever our differences, race, religion or politics, we have to remember that we shape our community by our words and actions each and everyday.

ISSUE 1: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE TO ISSUE BONDS TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO VETERANS OF THE PERSIAN GULF, AFGHANISTAN, AND IRAQ CONFLICTS
(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)
To adopt Section 2r of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

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

If approved, this proposed amendment shall take effect immediately.

League Explanation of Issue 1: This ballot issue proposes a constitutional amendment that would provide compensation to veterans serving during the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq conflicts. The amendment is similar to the bond issues passed by the voters to compensate veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict. It will provide the state with the authority to issue up to \$200 million of bonds. The Ohio treasurer has estimated that only \$106 million of the bond proceeds might actually be needed. All bonds must be issued by December 31, 2013. Repayment of these bonds would be a general obligation of the state backed by the taxing power of the state. Revenue from these bonds would be used to provide additional compensation as follows:

- Payment may be made to Ohio residents who have served on active duty in the United States armed forces between August 2, 1990 and March 3, 1991, which was the duration of the Persian Gulf conflict; between October 7, 2001 and the end of the United States' involvement in Afghanistan; and between March 19, 2003 and the end of the United States' involvement in Iraq.
- Veterans who served domestically or in foreign service in locations other than the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq may receive \$50 for each month served up to a maximum of \$500.
- Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq may receive \$100 for each month served up to a maximum of \$1000, or may receive \$1000 if medically discharged due to combat-related disabilities.
- If a person died as a result of injuries sustained in Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq service, that person's family may receive \$5000.
- If a person is missing in action or held in enemy captivity, that person's family may receive \$5000.

The Legislative Services Commission estimates that issuing \$200 million of obligations could increase the state's annual debt service expense by up to \$18 million. The voters must approve this bonding authority because the Ohio constitution does not permit an appropriation being made for a period longer than two years.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Passing the amendment by vote of the people shows that Ohioans appreciate Ohio veterans.
2. The payments will ease veterans' transition back into civilian life.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Tax monies will be diverted to paying principle and interest, and this may limit the availability of state revenue for other state programs during a period of financial crisis.
2. Future taxpayers will be responsible for the debt incurred for these payments. The payments should be paid for by revenues available in the current biennium.

Websites: Websites not available for proponents and opponents.

ISSUE 2: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO CREATE THE OHIO LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS BOARD
(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Ohio)

To enact Section 1 of Article XIV of the Ohio Constitution

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.
A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.
If approved, this proposed amendment will be effective immediately.

League Explanation of Issue 2:

- This proposed constitutional amendment would create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board for the purpose of establishing standards governing the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio.
- The bipartisan board would consist of thirteen members:
 - The director of the state department that regulates agriculture
 - Ten members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, including:
 - One member representing family farms
 - One member knowledgeable about food safety
 - Two members representing statewide organizations that represent farmers
 - One member who is a veterinarian
 - The State Veterinarian in the state department that regulates agriculture
 - The dean of the agriculture department of a college or university in Ohio
 - Two members of the public representing Ohio consumers
 - One member representing a county humane society
 - One member appointed by the Speaker of the House who shall be a family farmer
 - One member appointed by the President of the Senate who shall be a family farmer
- The Board would have authority to establish standards governing the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio, subject only to the authority of the General Assembly.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The board represents a balance of interests.
2. The board would establish standards governing the care and well being of livestock and poultry in Ohio.
3. Ohioans can have greater confidence in the safety of locally produced food.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The board should be created by statute rather than by amendment to the Ohio Constitution.
2. Creating another regulatory board utilizes revenues best spent on basic services to Ohioans.
3. The amendment could prevent certain animal care reform proposed by national animal rights organizations.

Websites: Websites are not available for both the proponents and opponents.

**ISSUE 3: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
TO AUTHORIZE A CASINO IN CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS,
CINCINNATI, AND TOLEDO, OHIO
(Proposed by Initiative Petition)**

To add a new Section 6a to Article XV of the Ohio Constitution
A YES vote means approval of the amendment.
A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.
A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.
If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect 30 days after the election.

League Explanation of Issue 3: This amendment would authorize four casinos, one each in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, located on particular parcels of land owned by private individuals.

1. The operator would be required to pay a tax of 33% annually on gross casino receipts. "Gross casino receipts" excludes payments to winners. The tax revenue would be allocated in the following ways:

- 51% to the 88 counties on a pro rata basis, with 50% of the county's distribution going to the county's most populated city if it had a population of greater than 80,000 as of the 2000 United States census.
 - 34% to public school districts in proportion to their public school district populations.
 - 5% to the host city where the casino that generated the revenue is located.
 - 3% to fund the Ohio Casino Control Commission.
 - 3% to a fund supporting purses, breeding programs and operations at existing horse racetracks.
 - 2% to fund a state law enforcement training program.
 - 2% to fund treatment of problem gambling and substance abuse.
2. The Ohio Casino Control Commission would license and regulate casino operators, management companies, key employees and all gaming. The commission would have 7 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
 3. Each casino operator must make a minimum initial investment of \$250 million.
 4. The initial license fee of \$50 million for each casino will fund state economic development programs.
 5. Each casino could operate 24 hours a day. Each casino may have a maximum of 5000 slot machines. Each casino may conduct any type of card or table games, slot machines or electronic gaming devices permitted by states adjacent to Ohio, except bingo, and horse racing where the pari-mutuel system of wagering is conducted.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. Thirty-eight states—including Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania—have casino gambling.
2. By authorizing casinos in Ohio, the profits could benefit our state rather than other states.
3. Counties, public school districts, and many cities will receive tax revenue generated by the casinos, and each can decide how to best spend its money.
4. The casinos will create 34,000 new jobs in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo.
5. The casinos will stimulate the economy by adding restaurants, hotels and ancillary businesses.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. The Ohio general revenue fund, which supports basic services for Ohioans, will get \$0 from the gross casino receipts tax.
2. Ohio lottery profits, currently dedicated to education, may decrease because people will gamble at the casinos instead of playing the lottery.
3. Ohioans may spend money at the casinos they would have spent at other existing Ohio businesses such as restaurants, movies, or sports events, adversely impacting those businesses.
4. The number of gambling addicts in Ohio would increase, and the tax receipts dedicated to providing treatment for addicts could be insufficient.
5. The proposed amendment could be construed to mean that all games allowed at the casinos can be played only at the casinos, eliminating church-festival poker games and casino nights sponsored by charitable groups.

Websites

In support of the proposed amendment: Cops for Casinos <http://copsforcasinos.com/>

In opposition to the proposed amendment: Vote NO Casinos Committee, TruthPAC www.truthpac.org/

**ISSUE 4: LORAIN COUNTY SALES TAX INCREASE OF 1/2%
SUPPORTING CRIMINAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

The Board of County Commissioners of Lorain County imposed an increase in the rate of sales and use taxes in 2009 in the amount of ½% for criminal and administrative justice services. Shall the increase in the rate of tax be retained?

- A YES vote means approval of the amendment.
- A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

Explanation of Issue 4: Lorain County enacted a ½ % sales tax increase in 2009 to support criminal and administrative services. On Nov. 3, voters will decide on continuing the ½% safety issue. The cost is \$6.89/month per household. If the voters approve, the funds are only for the jail, sheriff, prosecutor, coroner and courts.

Points to Consider:

- In trying to be fiscally responsible, Lorain County has already cut \$6.8 million from its budget. This included large cuts in public safety, including eliminating 20 sheriff's deputies and patrols and putting the prosecutor's office on an 85% work week, eliminating over a dozen court employees.
- Our county is growing and so are our safety needs. In an average year, the County Jail holds 445 prisoners. The Sheriff arrests 5,164 suspects. The courts handle 17,000 cases. Without the ½%, our county will be forced to close part of the jail and further reduce Sheriff and Court operations.
- Lorain County's sales tax is below the state average.
- County revenues dropped 20% (from \$60 million to just \$48 million) in three years as a result of state cutbacks and reduced income.
- Although there have been job cuts, pay freezes, forced unpaid leave and reduced hours among county workers in several areas, the ½% tax increase would restore only safety and the most essential positions.
- Passage is important for the safety of our communities.
- Unemployment, pay freezes, and reduced hours are not only problems county government is facing, but many other businesses and industries in the county as well. These are difficult times to impose an additional sales tax.

ISSUE 35: OBERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE BRIDGE

An additional tax for the benefit of the Oberlin Public Library for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each \$100 evaluation which amounts to 15 cents for each \$100 evaluation for five years commencing 2009, first due calendar year 2010.

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

League Explanation of Issue 35: A 1.5 mills operating levy for the benefit of the Oberlin Public Library & The Bridge will be voted on by the residents of the library's legal service area, the Oberlin School District.

If passed, the levy will begin to create revenue for OPL on January 1, 2010.

- The levy is expected to generate \$295,000 annually during the five years it will be in effect.
- The levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 (assessed value) home about \$46 a year.
- Currently, the same property owner is paying approximately \$35 a year to pay for the bond issued in 1990 to pay for the current library facility. That bond will be retired at the end of this year which means the net increase to that property owner is about \$11 a year in additional property taxes.

Points to Consider:

- State funding is shrinking due to a bad economy, a redistribution of state funds in Lorain County, and because Governor Strickland removed a large sum of money from the Public Library Fund in order to balance the State's budget for the next several years.
- State funding for public libraries is eroding. To maintain the quality services, materials, facility, programs, and staff that the community has grown to expect, then it is necessary to depend more on local money and rely less on state funding.
- Local property tax revenue has been reduced due to a poor economy and the library is expecting a 5% to 10% decrease in local tax revenue due to a revaluation of local property values.
- Passing the levy is important to avoid the staff cuts, shortened hours, cuts to the materials budgets, and all of the other bad things happening to public libraries around Ohio.
- An additional assessment on property is particularly difficult for people on fixed income or home-owners struggling in this troubled economy.