

League of Women Voters of the Tiffin Area

VOTER GUIDE

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**General Election
November 7, 2023**

**Polls Open:
6:30 A. M. to 7:30 P. M.**

This publication is issued by the League of Women Voters of the Tiffin Area, a national nonpartisan organization, to provide a forum to all political candidates within the jurisdiction of our organization that includes the City of Tiffin, Clinton, Hopewell, and Eden Townships, and Tiffin City, Hopewell-Loudon, and Mohawk School Districts.

***Celebrating 103 years of the
League of Women Voters and
53 years of the Tiffin Area League***

Information about candidates was assembled in the following manner: Candidates were asked to provide for their biographical information and their answers to the League questions. Candidates are solely responsible for the contents of their reply.

The League does not alter, edit, or correct the candidates' responses to the question(s) asked.

This Voter Guide was prepared for the 2023 General Election. All candidates who filed with the Board of Elections were contacted and asked to submit biographical information and to answer one or two questions approved by the League Board of Directors. Those who did not respond are listed with the statement — “response not received by press time.” Candidate responses were not edited for content, spelling or grammar, and were copied exactly as received. There are several ballot issues for this election.



**October 31: Absentee ballot applications must be received
by your board of elections by 8:30 p.m.**

***EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING HOURS FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER
(2023 GENERAL ELECTION | NOVEMBER 7, 2023)***

October 11-13: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 16-20: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 23-27: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 30: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

October 31: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

November 1-3: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

November 4: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

November 5: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

November 6: Mailed absentee ballots must be postmarked by this date.

November 7: General Election: Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

November 7: Absentee Ballots may be returned by mail or personally delivered to your county board of elections. If not returned by mail, absentee ballots must be received by your board of elections by 7:30 p.m.

November 13: Last day for boards of elections to receive absentee ballots that have been postmarked on or before November 6.

VOTER IDENTIFICATION

All Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle locations have begun issuing free state ID cards to eligible citizens as a result of the state's new voting ID law.

VOTER INFORMATION – NEW LAWS IN OHIO

At the end of 2022, Ohio's General Assembly passed significant changes to the state's election laws, particularly impacting the kind of ID voters need when voting and shortening the early voting period.

ID NEEDED TO VOTE BY MAIL

You will write or type these numbers on your request form- you do not have to show a physical copy to get an absentee ballot

- Ohio driver's license number or state ID card number
- OR
- Last 4 digits of your Social Security number

REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

- [Here](#) (link)
- If the ballot request form doesn't come directly from the Secretary of State's website, be sure the application says Form 11-A at the top- you can see what it looks like [here](#) (link)
- Submit your absentee ballot request by no later than 7 days before the election

TRACK YOUR BALLOT REQUEST

- Once you're submitted your request online, you'll get tracking updates letting you know they've received your request, and that your ballot is on its way to you
- Once you've returned your ballot, you'll also get updates letting you know your Board of Elections has received your ballot, and that your vote has been accounted for

RETURN YOUR BALLOT

- By mail
- To your county Board of Elections dropbox

DEADLINES

- By USPS mail: Must be postmarked by the day before the election and received by the 4th day after the election
- Hand-delivered: Must be received by your County Board of Elections by 7:30 pm on Election Day (note: not your polling place)

ACCEPTED ID FOR EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

- **Ohio driver's license or State ID card- must be issued by the Ohio BMV only**
 - **Your card cannot be expired**
 - **It's ok to have an old address on your card**
 - **It's ok to have an Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV**
- U.S. Military, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs card
- Ohio National Guard card
- U.S. Passport Book or Card

ID NO LONGER ACCEPTED FOR EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING

- **Last 4 digits of Social Security number**
- **Copy of a Photo ID**
- **Utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document**

THERE IS NO LONGER EARLY VOTING ON THE MONDAY BEFORE ELECTION DAY**ACCEPTED ID ELECTION DAY**

- **Ohio driver's license or State ID card- must be issued by the Ohio BMV only**
 - **Your card cannot be expired**
 - **It's ok to have an old address on your card**
 - **It's ok to have an Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV**
- U.S. Military, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs card
- Ohio National Guard card
- U.S. Passport Book or Card

ID NO LONGER ACCEPTED ON ELECTION DAY

- **Last 4 digits of Social Security number**
- **Copy of a Photo ID**
- **Utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document**

Any permanent or temporary resident of Ohio 17 years of age or older qualifies for a BMV-issued State ID Card free of charge if that person

- is not licensed as an operator of a motor vehicle in this or any other state.
- does not hold an identification card from another state.

- All non-citizens who apply for a license or ID card of any kind will have a notification on their card that indicates they are not a citizen of the United States.
- Individuals who become citizens of the U.S. may qualify for a free replacement of their license/ID card if all of the following is true
 - The card is valid and its expiration date is not within 90 days of expiration.
 - Their current card indicates the cardholder was a noncitizen
 - The applicant is a U.S. citizen at the time of application.

*** Please note that an ID card is not the same as a driver's license and does not grant you the privilege to operate any motor vehicle.

MISCELLANEOUS VOTING LAW CHANGES

PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

- Must be cured by the fourth day after Election Day
 - If you voted provisionally on Election Day because there was some question about your ID or something else, be sure to follow up with your county Board of Elections before that 4th day

EXCEPTIONS TO THE PHOTO ID REQUIREMENT

- Voters with a religious objection to being photographed are exempt from providing a photo ID when voting
- These voters can
 - vote with the last four digits of their social security number during early voting or on Election Day
- **And must**
 - **sign an "Affidavit of Religious Objection".**
 - **The affidavit and vote will be void if the voter is found to have a currently unexpired photo ID.**

CURBSIDE VOTING

- Curbside Voting is now more prohibitive and only available to voters who are "physically unable to enter the polling place".
 - However, a disability claim cannot be contested by an elections official.
-

TIFFIN-FOSTORIA MUNICIPAL COURT

Term: Unexpired term ending on 12-31-2025

Number to be elected: 1

Salary: \$148,775 – Figure shown represents the aggregate annual salary payable for full-time municipal court judges. The local share is \$61,750 per year, and the balance is paid by the State through a Supreme Court appropriation.

Responsibilities:

The Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court is a single court with two separate locations in Tiffin and Fostoria. The Criminal Division, the Civil Division, and the Traffic Division of the Tiffin location handles violations that have taken place within the geographic jurisdiction of all of Seneca County excluding Jackson and Loudon Townships and the City of Fostoria. The Criminal Division, the Civil Division, and the Traffic Division of the Fostoria location handles violations that have taken place within the geographic jurisdiction of Jackson and Loudon Townships in Seneca County, Washington Township in Hancock County, Perry Township in Wood County, and the City of Fostoria, which lies within Seneca, Hancock, and Wood Counties.

The Civil Division of the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court handles cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$15,000.00.

The PIVOT Court offers a five-phase treatment method that includes a substance abuse analysis, cognitive behavioral treatment, education assessments, addressing employment and housing needs, and further assessments involving participants' families. PIVOT also makes referrals to community services for medical help, or MAT services (medication-assisted treatment).

Question: *With the success of PIVOT and the Joint Justice Center, are there any other cooperative efforts to consider?*

Name: Rhonda L. Best

Education:

JD, The University of Toledo College of Law, December 2005

BA - English, Heidelberg University, 2002

AA - English, Terra State Community College, 2000

Tiffin Calvert High School, Valedictorian, 1996

Occupation: Judge, Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court

Training and Experience:

Judge, Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court, December 2022 - present

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Seneca County, July-November 2022,
August 2006-January 2018

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Crawford County, January 2018-July 2022

Village Solicitor for the Villages of Bloomville, Chatfield, and Nevada, 2019-2022

Court Investigator and Staff Attorney, Seneca County Probate Court, 2006

Adjunct Professor in Criminology, Heidelberg University, 2013-2018

Completed Treatment Courts Adult Drug Court Coursework comprised of 35 individual courses to be certified for PIVOT

Ohio Supreme Court Specialized Drug Court Docket Certification 2023

Attended hundreds of hours of Continuing Legal Education as a Judge and Prosecutor, including judicial ethics and professionalism courses far in excess of the required minimum to be in good standing as a licensed attorney and all required hours of new judge orientation through the Ohio Supreme Court including specific education and training for Municipal Court

Answer to Question: *With the success of PIVOT and the Joint Justice Center, are there any other cooperative efforts to consider?*

As Judge of the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court, I support collaboration with other Courts and agencies when it is beneficial to all the people we serve, by way of expanded resources and/or savings to the taxpayers. Making Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court an active participant in PIVOT again was a priority, and I am proud to say that I was recently certified by the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Specialized Dockets through 2026. Along with this certification, I am presiding over PIVOT every Thursday for the remainder of the year in Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court, returning the PIVOT proceedings back to Municipal Court for the first time in a few years.

During my time as Judge, I also pursued, and was subsequently awarded, a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court for a probation case management system that will allow the probation departments of different courts to communicate with each other more efficiently, resulting in fewer probation appointments and tests for individuals in multiple courts. Consequently, costs of testing and missed work hours for probationers will decrease. Combining probation departments has been discussed in the past. However, the municipal court's territorial jurisdiction is greater than Seneca

County, with the entire city of Fostoria, and the common issues facing misdemeanor probationers are at many times different than those involved with felony offenders, so there is a definite need for Municipal probation officers. However, the departments can and do work collaboratively when appropriate.

As Judge, I plan to work cooperatively with the Ohio BMV to enhance my already active Driving Under Suspension docket, so more people are driving with valid licenses and able to go to work and contribute to our community. Many people in Municipal Court find themselves in a labyrinth of BMV suspensions and registration blocks after receiving fines and fees outside of their ability to pay, sometimes from multiple jurisdictions. By working with the BMV, as well as other Municipal courts, my plan will help these folks to be back on the road, legally, sometimes for the first time in decades. I have also instituted a zoning review docket to assist the municipalities and their residents with communication regarding property maintenance violations in order to identify and correct those violations without demeaning the seriousness of those issues or burdening property owners with excessive fines when they are working to fix the problems. By bringing all parties to the table, we can find better solutions.

As Judge, I have been working with the other Courts, the cities, villages, counties, law enforcement agencies, and the citizens of this Court's jurisdiction, to make this Court an asset to our community as a whole. I am asking the voters to give me the opportunity to continue and expand the positive changes I have been implementing since I was appointed Judge almost a year ago.

Name: James W. Fruth

Education:

Heidelberg College, B.A.

Capital University Law School, J.D.

Occupation: Attorney with Behm & Henry, LLC

Training and Experience: 28 years as an attorney, adjunct professor at Heidelberg for 16 years, Village Solicitor for the Village of Green Springs, 2004-2008, Seneca County Board of Elections for 11 years, six as chair, CROSSWAEH CBCF Facility Governing Board for 19 years, eight as chair, Tiffin Charter Review Commission 2000, Teen Center Board, Rotary Club of Tiffin, 1999-present, Past President of Rotary, 2005-2006, President of Seneca County Bar Association

Answer to Question: *With the success of PIVOT and the Joint Justice Center, are there any other cooperative efforts to consider?*

No other issues should be considered until we control the drug crisis.

I have significant concerns that PIVOT is extremely underutilized. In the first nine months of 2023, only five referrals from Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court were accepted into PIVOT. Perhaps this is because PIVOT does not accept people into the program who are on medical marijuana. By contrast, the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court currently allows criminals on probation to use medical marijuana. If PIVOT is to be a truly cooperative program with the Common Pleas Court, the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court needs to follow PIVOT rules. I will enforce program policies from Day One.

MAYOR CITY OF TIFFIN

Term: 4 years

Number to be elected: 1

Salary: \$88,000

Responsibilities: Administrative power is vested in the mayor. The mayor can make recommendations to council and has veto power over all actions. The mayor has appointive and dismissal power to all city positions except elective ones.

Question 1: *Besides manufacturing, retail, and food, what are some of the other economic segments the City of Tiffin should recruit to build the city's potential?*

Question 2: *What past experience prepares you to become mayor?*

Name: John Spahr (R)

Education: BM-Heidelberg College; MAE-Heidelberg University

Occupation: Administrator, Seneca County Emergency Management Agency; Coordinator Seneca County 911; Emergency Coordinator, Seneca County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Training and Experience: US Navy Veteran; FEMA Professional Development Certification; Department of Homeland Security Strategic Leadership; 5 years state and federal grant acquisition and administration; Member of Northwest and North Central sectors of Emergency Management Association of Ohio; Member of the International Association

of Emergency Managers; TSEP board member; Community Volunteer Leader for Red Cross; former member Red Cross and Salvation Army advisory board member; past Tiffin Police and Fire dispatcher; former member Civil Service Commission; past adjunct professor-Heidelberg University; former instructor-Tiffin University; 8 years with WTTF; 13 years production-The Ritz Theatre.

Answer to Question 1: *Besides manufacturing, retail, and food, what are some of the other economic segments the City of Tiffin should recruit to build the city's potential?*

As your mayor, I will seek new options for reliable public transportation while supporting the current choices in the city. I will collaborate closely with the Tiffin-Seneca County Chamber of Commerce and Destination Seneca County to make Tiffin a vacation destination with events unique to Tiffin and Seneca County. As your mayor, I will continue the positive impact of current infrastructure advances in the city and explore new ways to make Tiffin fertile ground for attracting new business ventures. I will work with TSEP, the Seneca County Commissioners, and contractors to provide housing solutions and options, helping to attract a variety of new businesses to the City of Tiffin.

Answer to Question 2: *What past experience prepares you to become mayor?*

I have spent the last 28 years as a Tiffin resident and community member building relationships at the local, state, and federal levels. I have worked with private and public sector individuals and institutions through my work at The Ritz Theatre, WTTF, the City of Tiffin, and Seneca County. I seek and manage federal and state grants for the benefit of the community and leverage a tight departmental budget for the maximum benefit to citizens with minimal expense to taxpayers. I have learned the importance of hiring the right people for the right jobs and trusting the subject matter experts' opinions and advice. I have worked in retail, education, non-profit, public safety, and communication all right here in my hometown. I have given my time to advisory boards, public and private events, and our citizens in need. I am the only candidate with the experience and background to serve effectively as the next Mayor of the great City of Tiffin.

Name: Lee Wilkinson

Education:

Bachelor's Degree in Math and Chemistry Education from Ohio University

Master's Degree in Curriculum and Technology in Education from University of Illinois

Post-Graduate Certificate in Math Education from Ball State University

Occupation:

Retired from 35 years of teaching math in public schools and college

Training and Experience:

- At Ohio University, I was on an U.S. Airforce R.O.T.C. scholarship, serving as group commander during basic training.
- My teaching experience includes:
 - High school math, chemistry, physics, and computer programming,
 - College math and chemistry, and middle school math.
- My coaching experience includes football, wrestling, and baseball.
- I have 5 years of banking experience as a Computer Operator and Loan Officer.
- I partner with my wife, Susan Wilkinson, to operate the retail store Simply Susan's in downtown Tiffin.
- I graduated from the Citizens Police Academy in Tiffin.
- Since January, I have been attending ALL City Council Meetings, including committee, commission, and board meetings, in order to better know and understand the workings and operations in the City of Tiffin's local government. These committees and boards include:
 - Architectural Review Board,
 - Civil Service Commission,
 - Investment Advisory Committee,
 - Tree Commission,
 - Thomas Connor Memorial Commission,
 - Tiffin Municipal Arts Commission,
 - Zoning Board of Appeals,
 - Traffic Safety Committee.

Answer to Question 1: *Besides manufacturing, retail, and food, what are some of the other economic segments the City of Tiffin should recruit to build the city's potential?*

Due to the recent installation of high-speed Fiber Optic internet from Omni Fiber and Bascom Communication, Tiffin now has the potential to recruit

and attract internet technology companies. Data Centers, Tech startups, and established IT companies can stimulate economic growth by providing high-paying jobs and driving innovation. Data centers and IT companies create high-paying jobs, attracting skilled professionals and keeping our own young IT professionals in the city. These businesses diversify the local economy, making it less dependent on traditional industries. The installation of a data center may necessitate improvements, creating construction jobs and long-term economic benefits.

A DIY center is a place where residents can rent a space like a work studio or art studio to get instructions, create, and work on projects. DIY centers boost local retail and create job opportunities in construction, retail, and customer service. Selling locally hand-crafted items and products can boost small-scale manufacturing and local entrepreneurship. Unique and well-marketed DIY centers can attract tourists, stimulating local businesses and hospitality.

I would like to see family activity centers such as bowling, skating, putt-putt, or an indoor golf simulator. These are great activities for the families of Tiffin and can become tourist attractions, bringing in visitors who spend money on accommodations, dining, and shopping. They create spaces for families to bond and connect, enhancing the quality of life in Tiffin. Centers offering educational programs or entertainment options contribute to a well-rounded, culturally rich community.

Diversifying the business landscape by encouraging these industries can make a city more resilient and prosperous. Incorporating these segments into a city's economic landscape can bring numerous advantages, from job creation to community development, diversification, and tourism promotion, ultimately enhancing Tiffin's potential for growth and prosperity.

Answer to Question 2: *What past experience prepares you to become mayor?*

From managing the City Budget to providing services to our residents, the job of Mayor of Tiffin requires a range of skills. My extensive background in math, education, and coaching uniquely equips me for this role. As a retired teacher, I've cultivated essential skills in communication, problem-solving, and community engagement. My experience as head of the Math department at a high school honed my ability to manage teams, allocate resources efficiently, and implement data-driven strategies.

My master's degree in Math education has equipped me with a strong analytical mindset, a deep understanding of data and statistics, and a

commitment to evidence-based decision-making. These skills are invaluable for addressing the complex challenges facing our city. In my role as a coach, I know the importance of teamwork, collaboration, and motivating individuals toward a common goal. These principles can be applied to bring our community together and inspire positive change. I would work to make sure the policies and programs implemented benefit all residents of Tiffin, not just a select few. Overall, my experiences in education, leadership, and mathematics have provided me with a solid foundation in problem-solving, communication, and community building, making me well-prepared to serve as the mayor of our great city.

DIRECTOR OF LAW

Term: 4 years

Number to be selected: 1

Salary: \$70,000

Responsibilities: The duty of the Director of Law is to act as legal advisor and attorney for the city and its officers in matters relating to their official duties. The Director of Law is required to prepare all contracts, bonds, and other instruments in writing in which the city is concerned. The Director of Law or his/her assistant is designated as the prosecutor in police or municipal court.

Question 1: *What are any areas of concern do you foresee?*

Question 2: *How would you handle a potential lawsuit against the city?*

Name: Zachary E. Fowler

Education:

Juris Doctorate from Ohio Northern University, College of Law in 2011

Bachelor Business Administration from Tiffin University in 2007

High School Diploma from Tiffin Columbian High School in 2003

Occupation: Attorney at Supance & Howard

Training and Experience:

Attorney at Supance & Howard, 2021 – present. I primarily advise and represent clients in business law and transactions, real estate matters, estate and trust administration, and estate planning.

Law Office of Zachary Fowler, LLC, 2020 – 2021. I advised and represented clients in business law and transactions, real estate matters, estate planning, and debtor's rights.

General Counsel at Firelands Federal Credit Union, 2016 – 2020. I advised management and directors regarding credit union regulatory matters and general business transactions.

I represented the Credit Union in debt collection cases, bankruptcy cases, foreclosures, and other litigation. I reviewed and prepared contracts for the Credit Union. I provided regulatory compliance advice, prepared and reviewed policies and procedures, and provided compliance advice to management.

Attorney at Lange, DeVine & Claus, LLC, 2012 – 2016. I represented clients in court for consumer and commercial debt collection cases, foreclosures, bankruptcy cases, and other litigation. I advised clients on various financial regulations, landlord-tenant law, bankruptcy law, debt collection law, and real estate law. I prepared legal documents and performed title searches for commercial and residential real estate transactions.

Assistant Civil Prosecutor at Seneca County Prosecutor's Office, 2012 – 2013. I represented and advised county elected officials and township elected officials on various local government laws and regulations. I reviewed contracts and other legal documents for county elected officials and township elected officials.

Over 200 hours of continuing legal education in a variety of law including Ohio government law and public records laws.

Answer to Question 1: *What are any areas of concern do you foresee?*

The law director will have several areas of concern in the upcoming term. The primary areas include helping guide a new mayor and new city council into their roles, managing the city prosecution of criminal offenses, and advising and assisting with the many projects of the City of Tiffin.

For the first time in a very long time, Tiffin will have a new mayor, a new law director, and a new city council all at the same time. The city lost a seasoned mayor as well as its senior members of city council. It will soon lose its most senior city official, Brent Howard, who has served as the law director for 28 years. What that means is the new law director will be busy

helping them understand their roles as well as establishing relationships with the city administration, city commissions, and boards.

Another concern is retaining and hiring prosecuting attorneys for the city. While it is the law director's duty to be the primary city prosecutor, the law director may hire a full-time and part-time prosecuting attorney for the city. The challenge for the law director is retaining the current full-time city prosecutor as well as hiring a part-time prosecutor and/or finding a replacement for the full-time prosecutor, if he should leave. It is a challenge because there is a drought in attorneys all across Ohio. The Ohio State Bar Association estimates that two-thirds of the counties in Ohio don't have enough lawyers to meet the legal needs of those counties. There are ways for the law director to address it. One is to be actively communicating the Ohio law schools career development offices. Another is to explore the possibility to start an internship program.

Another area of focus is working with the city departments, especially the city engineer, on the many projects of the city, like the long-term control plan. These projects will be in different phases, demanding a comprehensive understanding of their status and requirements. From the law director's perspective, this involves tasks like reviewing or writing contracts, writing ordinances, and advising the city officials.

In these multifaceted roles, I am dedicated to ensuring the continuity and prosperity of our city, working alongside our new leaders, and addressing the unique challenges that lie ahead.

Answer to Question 2: *How would you handle a potential lawsuit against the city?*

I would approach a potential lawsuit with a commitment of thorough, responsible, and ethical actions on behalf of the city. My strategy involves several key steps:

1. **Assessment.** The first step is a thorough assessment of the situation. I would collaborate with relevant city departments and other parties to understand the details and merits of the case. It's essential to gather all pertinent information to make informed decisions.

2. Legal Analysis. I would conduct a comprehensive legal analysis of the case, including reviewing applicable laws, regulations, and past precedents. This analysis informs the city's legal strategy.

3. Consultation. Collaboration is crucial. I would consult with our city council, city officials, and other stakeholders to ensure everyone is informed and aligned with our legal strategy. Transparent communication is key.

4. Alternative Resolution. Whenever possible, I would explore alternative dispute resolution methods, such as mediation or negotiation, to resolve the issue amicably and avoid protracted litigation. This approach can often save the city time and money.

5. Legal Representation. If a lawsuit is filed, then there has to be a decision of whether I would represent the city or if another attorney is appropriate. In some situations, the city may make a claim on its insurance and the insurance company may hire a different attorney. Another reason another attorney would be hired is the subject matter of the lawsuit. If it's a highly specialized area, it may be prudent to hire an attorney who is an expert in that matter. While it may cost the city more for that outside attorney, it may be money well spent if the outcome is favorable to the city.

6. Risk Management. Throughout the process, I would actively manage the city's exposure to risk. This includes exploring settlement options when appropriate and continuously assessing the potential impact on our finances and reputation.

7. Transparency. I believe in keeping our community informed. To the extent allowed by law, I would provide regular updates to our residents at city council meetings about the outcomes of the case, maintaining transparency and accountability.

8. Learning and Prevention. Finally, I see each potential lawsuit as an opportunity to learn and improve. I would work with city officials to identify any systemic issues that may have contributed to the situation and implement preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of future legal challenges.

In handling a potential lawsuit against the city, my approach is a balanced one that seeks to protect our city's interests while also exploring avenues for resolution that minimize costs and disruption to our community.

Name: Gina R. Grandillo (D)

Education: Calvert High School; Ohio Northern University, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; University of Dayton School of Law, Juris Doctorate

Occupation: Attorney

Training and Experience: National Drug Court Institute Certified Attorney; Capitol Hill Intern; Legal Contracts Clerk, City of Dayton Commissioner's Office; Solicitor, Village of Republic; Practicing Attorney with the Law Offices of James R. Gucker and Associates, Ltd.; Admitted to Practice Law in the state of Ohio and the District of Columbia.

Answer to Question 1: What are any areas of concern do you foresee?

A good Law Director is one who does not seek out problems, but solutions. With a fresh leadership team coming into City Hall, the Law Director will need to be available to assist in the transition and implementation of the new administration. As the only candidate with local government experience, I feel that I am best equipped to guide this process. My experience in various forms of local/national government best prepares me to assist our City officials in creating the laws and regulations that best serve us. Tiffin is evolving and developing every day, and I want to do what I can to make this the best place to live and thrive.

Since the County Prosecutor's office has elected to terminate the contract for Municipal Prosecution, getting the City Prosecutor's office back up and running will be a large portion of the Law Director's transition. We will need a Law Director who knows their way around the courthouse, and the criminal justice system. One cannot manage something they've never done. My criminal courtroom experience will be an asset to the city, while recognizing that a solid infrastructure is in place and would need my support as it adapts. This also means that the Law Director will need to work closely with our law enforcement and safety services agencies.

Just like at the state and national level, participation in local government is changing. City Hall should be a place where people feel encouraged to participate and ask questions. I promise to be available to all citizens and City Employees to hear concerns and answer questions. As an

independent elected official, the job of the Law Director is essential in bridging the gap between citizens and our government. Consistency is key, and my consistent practice has prepared me to address issues with logic and confidence. As a trusted advisor in City Hall, I will not seek to influence, but to give thoughtful legal counsel while considering the lasting effects on our local community and beyond.

Answer to Question 2: How would you handle a potential lawsuit against the city?

I would encourage the city to utilize the Law Director's Office for any ongoing or new litigation. Good leadership takes accountability head-on, and I would seek to save the City money by keeping our legal services in-house, as opposed to hiring out to large firms hours away. That being said, I never stray away from a fight, and I consider myself a natural and accomplished litigator, and will be aggressive in protecting our City's interests and money in court.

For any on-going litigation, I would like to see a fair and equitable result for everyone involved. As Law Director, I will always consider public input while ensuring our departments and officials operate within the confines of the law. As the City's lawyer, I will always support Law Enforcement and Safety Services, and I will ensure that safety and prosperity are at the heart of every legal action we take.

MEMBER OF COUNCIL AT LARGE
For unexpired term ending 12-31-2025

Term: For unexpired term ending 12-31-2025

Number to be elected: 3

Salary:

A. For calendar year 2024, the annual rate is \$6,400.00

B. For calendar year 2025, the annual rate is \$6,460.00

C. For calendar year 2026, the annual rate is \$6,530.00

D. For calendar year 2027 and for each year after until changed by further legislation of Council is \$6,590.00

Responsibilities: City Council is the policy-making and legislative body of the city government. It has complete control over finances, subject to the mayor's veto, which council can override. Standing committees are: Finance; Law and Community Planning; Utilities and Related Services;

Recreation and Public Property; Personnel and Labor Relations; Street, Sidewalks, and Sewer; and Materials and Equipment. Each of Tiffin's four wards is represented by a council member. Three members are elected by the City-at-large. Staggered 4-year terms result in the ward council candidates running for office this year.

Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?*

Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?*

Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?*

Name: John Hays (R)

Education: B.S. University of Kentucky, MBA Tiffin University

Occupation: Systems Analyst, Webster Industries

Training and Experience:

Answer to Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?*

I believe Tiffin needs to grow as a destination recent graduates can see themselves starting a career and raising a family in.

Answer to Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?*

I plan to stay in office as long as the citizens of Tiffin believe I am the right person for the job. I see this position as a way to positively influence the place I want to raise my children.

Answer to Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?*

The local government must consider what is necessary for the safety and well-being of its citizens and from there determine what can be leveraged through other means in order to maintain responsible levels of spending.

Name: John Kahler, II – Response not received at press time

Name: Cheyane L. Thacker (D)

Education: Tiffin Columbian High School

Occupation: Legal Assistant

Training and Experience: Council Member At-Large; President Pro-Tempore of Tiffin City Council; Streets, Sidewalks Sewers Committee Chair; Founding Member and President of Seneca Proud; Ritz Players Board Member

Answer to Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?* - Tiffin's two universities greatly impact our economy. They are economic drivers through the faculty, students, staff, and parents that interact with Tiffin through patronizing our local businesses, and through income tax revenue of both staff and students.

Answer to Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?* - My intention is to complete my current term and re-evaluate at a later time if I will choose to run for re-election. I am currently really enjoying serving my community and will continue to do so as the voters see fit.

Answer to Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?* - I interpret this question to be asking about which resources and services the city should prioritize. Above all else, safety services are the most important part of any city. We must take care of our residents and their wellbeing in times of distress and misfortune.

MEMBER OF COUNCIL
Vote for not more than one per Ward

Term: 4 years

Number to be elected: 1 per ward

Salary:

A. For calendar year 2024, the annual rate is \$6,400.00

B. For calendar year 2025, the annual rate is \$6,460.00

C. For calendar year 2026, the annual rate is \$6,530.00

D. For calendar year 2027 and for each year after until changed by further legislation of Council is \$6,590.00

Responsibilities: City Council is the policy-making and legislative body of the city government. It has complete control over finances, subject to the

mayor's veto, which council can override. Standing committees are: Finance; Law and Community Planning; Utilities and Related Services; Recreation and Public Property; Personnel and Labor Relations; Street, Sidewalks, and Sewer; and Materials and Equipment. Each of Tiffin's four wards is represented by a council member. Three members are elected by the City-at-large. Staggered 4-year terms result in the ward council candidates running for office this year.

Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?*

Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?*

Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?*

Name: Aaron W Jones (D)

TC Council 1st Ward

Education: Graduated from Clyde High School

Training and Experience: Served 4 years in the U.S. Army

Currently a production supervisor at Grammer in Tiffin (formerly Toledo Molding & Die).

Graduated Professional Leadership Development Course US Army-1994

I have 25 years of supervision in automotive manufacturing.

Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?*

I believe Tiffin needs to continue to grow all aspects of the economy and try to attract more manufacturing to the city.

Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?*

I plan on staying in office as long as I have the trust of the voters.

Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?*

At the local level, the government needs to put the sewer project at the top of the list, without losing focus on maintaining a strong police and fire department.

Name: Chris Monsour

TC Council Ward 1

Education: Bachelor of Science Environmental Biology Heidelberg University / Master Arts in Education Heidelberg University / Master of Science in Science Education Montanan State University

Occupation: Science Teacher Tiffin City Schools

Training and Experience: 25 years high school classroom teaching experience

Answer to Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?*

I feel that the strongest element Tiffin has to grow economically is a skilled and educated workforce. I feel we are blessed to have a place like Sentinel Career Center just down the road. Having the chance to interact with so many of the Sentinel students when they are in Columbian has really shown me that there are well paying jobs out there but they require certain skills. Whether those skills be related to the construction trade, law and public safety, or manufacturing, I feel for Tiffin to continue on its path of growth, we as a city and as a city government need to find ways and incentives to attract even more skilled workers. Having a well educated and skilled workforce can attract more business, encourage more innovation, and build on the economic development success Tiffin has already achieved. I feel that it is often a combination of elements that has contributed to Tiffin's economic prosperity. These elements being infrastructure, a business friendly environment, and strategic location.

Answer to Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?*

I will stay as long as they will have me. I have enjoyed my time on council and what makes it more enjoyable is being able to walk into my classroom each morning and having discussions with 14 and 15 year olds and hearing what there concerns are and what they want for a city that they will someday be stewards of.

Answer to Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary?*

I think the priorities of local government should be in line with the well-being and development of its community. Any decision made by a body such as City Council should have the best interest of the residents of Tiffin in mind. I think this is done by community engagement, having meetings and encouraging people to attend those meetings to see what the concerns are.

Need to make decisions based on data and research. We need to look at trends in the demographics of Tiffin to make better choices. Collaboration is also key. City government needs to collaborate with nonprofits, private groups and other agencies to address needs.

Name: Scott D. Hoernemann

Council 2nd Ward

Education: Attended Heidelberg University

Occupation: Elementary Music Teacher Calvert Catholic Schools & Music Coordinator Faith United Methodist Church

Training and Experience: Civil Service Commission City of Tiffin, Nationwide Insurance Agent/ Office Manager, Territory Manager Acosta Sales & Marketing, Self Employed Musician, Officer Excelsior Men's Society, VP Heidelberg Student Senate, former volunteer Seneca County Museum, & former Officer Enterprise Lodge #579

1: What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?

Tiffin & Seneca County currently has a lack of housing. If we are to attract new businesses, new residents, and bring former residents back; it is paramount that we address this. This would also give our current businesses more confidence to expand.

2: How long do you plan to stay in office?

I plan to stay in office as long as my constituents and I feel that I am effective.

3: How should the local government prioritize what is necessary?

The job of City Council is always to put the best interest of the City of Tiffin first. First priorities should always be Police & Fire Departments, infrastructure, quality of living for residents, and supporting business/economic development. It is council's job to solve problems effectively with consideration for the future.

Name: My name is Ken Jones and I am running as a write in candidate for the 2nd ward on Tiffin city council.

Education: I graduated from Tiffin Columbian high school and from Tiffin University with a bachelor's degree in business management.

Occupation: I have close to forty (40) years of experience in the factory environment working in the union, non-union, and management areas giving me a well rounded background working with people.

Training and Experience: I have received on the job training for the past four years on city council.

I have been a leader on city council by trying to engage the other six members to discuss topics before we vote on them so the citizens of Tiffin have a background on why we are voting the way we do.

Name: Kevin Roessner

Council 3rd Ward

Education:

Indiana Institute of Technology, Bachelors of Science in Business Administration

Terra State Community College, Associate of Applied Business

Post Graduate work at Tiffin University

Occupation:

Senior IT Project and Integration Manager

Training and Experience:

Ward 3 Tiffin City Council member since 2022

Seneca Regional Planning Commission Board member since 2022

20+ years of technical, business and project management experience

Ohio Public Records and Open Meetings Laws Training

Citizens Emergency Response Team

Citizens Police Academy

Precinct Election Official

Answer to Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?*

The "can-do" spirit of Tiffin's residents has always been, and always will be what grows Tiffin economically. We have a strong educational system that creates a knowledgeable and skilled workforce in an area centrally located geographically with a low cost of living. Simply put, our people are really at the center of our success.

Answer to Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?*

My goal is to continue to position Tiffin on a continued path of success through fairness and fiscal responsibility well into the future. There is a need for consistency in our locally elected officials to implement and carry

out long term projects efficiently. In addition, a short-term service mindset may steer too much focus on short-term issues at the expense of long term planning.

Answer to Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary?*

Our local government should always consider the unique factors of our community when establishing priorities and get as much input as possible from residents. Statistics and data also are crucial in helping confirm these priorities and make informed decisions. Specific priorities should continue to include Public Safety, Infrastructure, Education, Social Services, and Economic Development. We need to continue to collaborate with other hard working local agencies, organizations and businesses in the area while remaining flexible to evolving community needs.

Name: Troy 'TJ' McKee (D)

Council 4th Ward

Education: BA from Emory & Henry University

Occupation: Owner/ Chief Operating Officer at Opus Management

Training and Experience: Business Management, Systems and Productivity Consulting

Answer to Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?*

One of the key ways to enhance Tiffin's economic growth is to leverage our existing initiatives. Community events that draw people from beyond the city's limits are a great way to attract visitors and stimulate the local economy. These events can include cultural festivals, concerts, food fairs, and more. By promoting Tiffin as a hub for cultural and social activities, we can increase tourism and generate revenue for local businesses.

In addition, it is important to provide ongoing support for the two colleges and vocational programs in Tiffin. These institutions are vital to the city's economy, providing skilled labor and training for the next generation of professionals. By investing in education and workforce development, we can ensure that Tiffin remains competitive in a rapidly changing global economy.

Another area of focus should be the manufacturing industry. Tiffin has a strong manufacturing sector, and there is ample opportunity for further expansion. By attracting new businesses and promoting entrepreneurship, we can create new jobs and generate more revenue for the city.

To achieve these goals, we must work together as a community. We need to identify our strengths and build upon them, while also addressing our challenges and finding solutions. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and a shared sense of purpose, we can unlock Tiffin's full potential and create a brighter future for everyone.

Answer to Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?*

As a leader who is committed to serving in office, I understand that there are certain conditions that must be met in order for me to continue in my role. Firstly, I must possess the ability to perform my duties and responsibilities with competence and efficiency. Secondly, it is important that the Tiffin Community continues to acknowledge the value of my service and support my endeavors.

I believe that leadership is a journey, and every day presents new challenges that require innovative solutions. However, my passion for public service is unwavering, and I remain committed to working hard to serve the people of Tiffin.

As a leader, I know that my commitment to this role is not just about my personal interests, but about fulfilling a responsibility to the community. Therefore, I pledge to dedicate my time, energy and skills to serving with integrity, transparency and accountability.

In conclusion, my commitment to serving in office is contingent upon my ability to continue to meet the needs of the community and the community's continued recognition of the value of my service. As long as these conditions are met, I remain fully dedicated to serving as an effective and proactive leader for the Tiffin community.

Answer to Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary?*

Listening to the concerns and feedback of the community is essential for any local government. Prioritizing what is necessary means putting the needs and wants of the people first, especially when it comes to issues that directly impact their well-being and safety. To effectively prioritize, conducting regular community surveys and consultations is a valuable approach. These efforts help understand the most pressing concerns and priorities, ranging from public health and safety to infrastructure improvements and community programs. With the collected feedback, the local government can develop a plan that reflects the community's top priorities. This plan should be based on evidence-based research, data, and input from local experts. It should be specific, measurable, and have

clear objectives, targets, and timelines. Furthermore, collaborating with constituents is crucial. Effective communication, implementation, and evaluation of priorities require community engagement and involvement. This fosters transparency, trust, and accountability between the local government and its constituents. Overall, serving the needs of the community should always be the local government's top priority. By using inclusive, evidence-based, and collaborative processes, the government can address pressing issues and bring about positive change.

Name: Dennis Snay (R)

TC Council 4th Ward Candidate

Education: Old Fort High School, University of Toledo, Several Army Leadership Schools, Ordination of Ministry/Corporate Anointing Ministry, Combat Medic School/Army, Petroleum Specialist School/Army, Attended Registered Nursing School/Owens Community College.

Occupation: Non-Commissioned Officer/Army/2nd Psychological Operation Group, Business Owner/Eagle Eye Car Detailing LLC, Ordained Minister.

Training and Experience: Various Army Certifications, formally trained in Jazz composition and saxophone. Worked with several cultures and religions all over the world

Answer to Question 1: *What is the strongest element that Tiffin has to grow economically?* Short answer...housing. We need to work with TSEP, housing contractors, and create incentives through City Council in or to attract builders to commit to Tiffin. I know that four industries, in Tiffin, are ready and wanting to expand.... RIGHT NOW but we have a housing shortage. With this expansion we can take in more tax revenue, there will be more jobs and Tiffin won't need to raise taxes.

Answer to Question 2: *How long do you plan to stay in office?* I am about to retire from the Army and would like to be a part of the solution in my community and throughout the county. Since I am 60 years old, I would like to be a part of City Council for 2 terms/8 years. After that is over, I will relax a little more, work in my business and do what God guides me in.

Answer to Question 3: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary?*

The city government (City Council and various departments) should sit down and come up with ideas on how to economically grow our city. We also need to bring TSEP into that process. We then start dealing with the

homeless issue and getting those citizens hope, trained and employed in great jobs/trade. Then we can deal with the infrastructure... sewers, bridges, roads...etc making Tiffin more desirable for future citizens to live and raise their families.

TIFFIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMBER OF SCHOOL BOARD
Vote for not more than 2

Term: 4 years

Number to be elected: 2

Salary: For new terms: \$125 per meeting

Responsibilities: There are five elected Board of Education Members whose main function is to formulate policy for the district. The Board approves all appropriations for expenditures by the school system.

Question 1: *How should the TCS School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?*

Question 1: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?*

Name: Meagan McBride

Education: Undergraduate: Intervention Specialist, BGSU. Graduate: Clinical Mental Health Counseling, BGSU. PhD: Counselor Education & Supervision, University of Toledo

Occupation: Director of Masters of Arts in Counseling Program at Heidelberg and small business owner.

Training and Experience: I have worked in education for more than 18 years (early childhood and cold care centers, one on one aide for individuals with disabilities, special education teacher, prevention and education, teaching assistant, adjunct, professor). I have also worked in the mental health field for nearly a decade, with specializations in childhood trauma, trauma, serving rural populations, and counselor education.

Answer to Question 1: *How should the TCS School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?*

This prioritizing needs to be done intentionally, and not in a vacuum. When we say yes to one thing we are likely saying no to something else. Our students' safety and education have to stay the focus when we are deciding where to prioritize funds. As we work to make these decisions we

need to seek out community input and we need to share with the community when decisions will be made, why they were made, and what the next steps are. We are also going to have to go to the community to help and to be able to do so, they need to know what we need and why.

Answer to Question 2: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?*

School vouchers are complicated. They allow families choice and can add opportunities, however, they ultimately pull students and funding from districts. Universal voucher programs ultimately cost taxpayers more, and pull from the already tight budgets of private schools. And while choice is important, it is of note that the research is mixed on if outcomes are better for students who opt out of public school and into the voucher program.

Name: Heidi Stephey

Education: BGSU Bachelor of Science in Education and Communications

Occupation: Realtor with Century 21 Bolte Real Estate

Training and Experience: I have been an educator and/or a parent in this school system since 1995. I have many years of board experiences on several boards including The Ritz Theatre Board, The Bucyrus-Tiffin YMCA Board, The Meshech Frost Trust Board, and The Allen Eiry Trust Committee.

Answer to Question 1: *How should the TCS School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?* The current and future board members need to prioritize goals and spending with well-educated discernment. It is important, no matter an organization's financial status, to be good stewards of the public's finances. Educating our students and serving our community's needs should guide the Board's priorities. I have met with the TCS treasurer, and plan to meet with him again, in order to be well informed before I begin my term.

Answer to Question 2: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?* It can obviously affect the amount of funding available to our district, and this will have to be addressed as necessitated. As for enrollment, our school system needs to focus on making our schools as effective and attractive as possible, in order to retain and attract students and families.

**MOHAWK LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMBER OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
Vote for not more than 2**

Term: 4 years

Number to be elected: 2

Salary: For new terms: \$125 per meeting

Responsibilities: There are five elected Board of Education Members whose main function is to formulate policy for the district. The Board approves all appropriations for expenditures by the school system.

Question 1: *How should the Mohawk School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?*

Question 1: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?*

Name: Danielle Clouse

Education: High School Graduate of New Riegel High School, Undergraduate Degree: Bachelors of Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from The Ohio State University; Masters of Accounting Degree from The Ohio State University

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Answer to Question 1: *How should the Mohawk School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?*

The current economic situation of the district needs to be continuously monitored by the Board and Administration and we need to be good stewards of the money we receive from those that live in the district, and put the money received where it is most needed - towards ever-improving the quality of education provided by Mohawk Local Schools. It is important to provide an attractive working environment to keep our current educators and attract new qualified candidates to our district. Residing in a rural location, and with potential teacher and staff shortages in the future, this will need to continue to be a top priority to be able to continue to provide the excellent education that is being provided to our students now and in the future.

Answer to Question 2: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?*

School vouchers may impact the district by reducing enrollment (and thus funding as it is based on student enrollment among other things), allowing students to select an option (such as private education) that they may not have had the opportunity to attend before. The district will need to continue to monitor enrollment trends to determine if future enrollment and thus state funding is declining as a result that would result in future budgets needing to be adjusted.

Name: Carl R. Long, Jr.

Education: B.A. in Accounting, B.A. in Education, Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and work in doctoral in education administration

Occupation: Retired

Training and Experience: Teacher, Principal K-12

Answer to Question 1: *How should the Mohawk School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?*

Our board has made its mission to be fiscally responsible with our funding that we hopefully will not have to back for “new” monies from the tax payer. As long as we can renew levies that are already on the books and continue to be responsible with what we receive.

Answer to Question 2: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?*

I see it having a big affect on enrollment and it takes away monies that the tax payers pay for public schools. Private school vouchers are siphoning off precious state tax dollars that further shifts the burden of funding to our local public schools to home owners and business owners in our communities. Public schools are being forced to go back to local taxpayers more and more often and that overreliance on local property taxes to fund public schools is unconstitutional.

**HOPEWELL-LOUDON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMBER OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
Vote for not more than 2**

Term: 4 years

Number to be elected: 2

Salary: For new terms: \$125 per meeting

Responsibilities: There are five elected Board of Education Members whose main function is to formulate policy for the district. The Board approves all appropriations for expenditures by the school system.

Question 1: *How should the Hopewell-Loudon School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?*

Question 2: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?*

Name: Kevin Kreais – Response not received at press time

Name: Adam Alt – Response not received at press time

Name: Kelly Cook

Education: Diploma in Diesel Technology from University of Northwestern of Ohio

Occupation: Outside Technician Bascom Mutual Telephone Company

Training and Experience: I was a council member for First Lutheran Church in Tiffin Ohio for 5 years. I am currently starting my 5 years on the Seneca County Agricultural Society.

Answer to Question 1: *How should the Hopewell-Loudon School Board prioritize its future goals when funding is in doubt?*

Education should always be at the forefront of any discussion when it comes to goals set by the board. Whether it's your basic Math, Science, English or a Trade, education is the top priority for the board.

Answer to Question 2: *How will school vouchers affect enrollment and funding?*

I am not very familiar with school vouchers, but the limited research I did on this shows they could affect enrollment at some schools. However, I believe that Hopewell-Loudon is an excellent school and students receive

an excellent education. There would not be a need for parents to use vouchers to send their child to another school.

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Term: 4 years

Number to be elected:

Salary – Based on budget

Clinton: \$11,540

Eden: \$12,370

Hopewell: \$12,696

Responsibilities: The three trustees are the executive, legislative, and financial body that operates and maintains the townships. Their primary functions center around fire protection, maintenance of roads and cemeteries, and emergency services.

Answer to Question 1: *Besides the EMS service, are there any other joint or cooperative endeavors that the townships could engage in with the county?*

Answer to Question 2: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?*

Name: Randy Kuhn – Response not received at press time
Clinton Township

Name: Vern Morter – Response not received at press time
Eden Township

Name: Troy J. Huth
Hopewell Trustee

Education: Hopewell-Loudon High School 1989
Owens Community College 1992 Associates Degree - Fire Science
Qualified Elevator Inspector 2019

Occupation: Elevator Inspector, State of Ohio - Department of Commerce

Training and Experience: I have served as a Community Member on the Bascom Joint Fire District Board for the past 12 years. During that time we have been able to purchase much needed equipment and build a new,

state of the art Fire Station. I have past job experience working in a Municipal Parks Department, Municipal Road/Street Maintenance Department, and a Municipal Fire Department. All of this public work experience gives me a vast background of working knowledge that would be a great asset as a Township Trustee.

Answer to Question 1: *Besides the EMS service, are there any other joint or cooperative endeavors that the townships could engage in with the county?* I would be interested in researching the possibility of pooling Township and County resources for the purchase of large road and maintenance equipment that could be shared for use.

Answer to Question 2: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?* We need to prioritize projects that will benefit the most citizens in our community while being fiscally responsible with the plan of action,

TOWNSHIP FISCAL OFFICER

Term: 4 years

Number to be elected: 1 per township

Salary:

Clinton: \$19,045

Eden: \$20,413

Hopewell: \$22,218

Responsibilities: The fiscal officer is elected to oversee and safeguard the township funds and work with the trustees to see monies are spent wisely and in the best interest of the residents. Fiscal officers are also the keepers of all the township records.

Answer to Question 1: *Besides the EMS service, are there any other joint or cooperative endeavors that the townships could engage in with the county?*

Answer to Question 2: *How should the local government prioritize what is necessary in a climate of fiscal conservatism?*

Name: Stephen Welter – Response not received at press time
Clinton Township

Name: Julie Vogel – Response not received at press time
Eden Township

Name: Laura Schreiner – Response not received at press time
Hopewell Township

ISSUE 1

ISSUE 1 BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

A Self-Executing Amendment Relating to Abortion and Other Reproductive Decisions

Proposed by Initiative Petition

To enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would:

- Establish in the Constitution of the State of Ohio an individual right to one’s own reproductive medical treatment, including but not limited to abortion;
- Create legal protections for any person or entity that assists a person with receiving reproductive medical treatment, including but not limited to abortion;
- Prohibit the State from directly or indirectly burdening, penalizing, or prohibiting abortion before an unborn child is determined to be viable, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means;
- Grant a pregnant woman’s treating physician the authority to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an unborn child is viable;
- Only allow the State to prohibit an abortion after an unborn child is determined by a pregnant woman’s treating physician to be viable

and only if the physician does not consider the abortion necessary to protect the pregnant woman's life or health; and

- Always allow an unborn child to be aborted at any stage of pregnancy, regardless of viability if, in the treating physician's determination, the abortion is necessary to protect the pregnant woman's life or health.

If passed, the amendment will become effective 30 days after the election.

SHALL THE AMENDMENT BE APPROVED?

Yes

No

INFORMATION ON ISSUE 1:

Amendment Language if Adopted by Voters:

Be it Resolved by the People of the State of Ohio that Article I of the Ohio Constitution is amended to add the following Section:

Article I, Section 22. The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety

A. Every individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on:

- contraception;
- fertility treatment;
- continuing one's own pregnancy;
- miscarriage care; and
- abortion.

B. The State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either:

- An individual's voluntary exercise of this right or
- A person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual's health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care.

However, abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health.

C. As used in this Section:

- "Fetal viability" means "the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures. This is determined on a case-by-case basis".
- "State" includes any governmental entity and political subdivision.

D. This Section is self-executing.

Analysis by League of Women Voters of Ohio:

A **"yes"** vote supports amending the Ohio Constitution to:

- establish a state constitutional right to "make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions," including decisions about abortion, contraception, fertility treatment, miscarriage care, and continuing pregnancy;
- prohibit the state of Ohio from interfering with this constitutional right, except when the state demonstrates "that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual's health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care;"
- allow the state to restrict abortion after fetal viability, defined as "the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures;" and
- prohibit the state of Ohio from banning abortion when, in the professional judgment of a physician, an abortion "is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health."

A **"no"** vote opposes amending the Ohio Constitution to establish the constitutional right to "make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions." This, then, allows the General Assembly to pass legislation banning or restricting abortion and other reproductive decisions.

Pros:

1. This amendment would restore the rights and protections for Ohioans that were eliminated by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 decision (Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization) in which the court held that the U.S. Constitution does not confer a right to abortion.
2. The amendment would restore rights and protections for Ohioans that were guaranteed in 1973 by a U.S. Supreme Court decision (Roe v. Wade) that held the right to privacy under the 14th Amendment protected abortion as a fundamental right at least up until the time of fetal viability.
3. The amendment would establish that the doctor-patient relationship in Ohio ensures that individuals are empowered to make their own reproductive health decisions without interference from the government.
4. The amendment would establish that every individual in Ohio has the right to make reproductive decisions including but not limited to decisions on contraception, fertility treatment continuing one's own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion. This is important for underserved populations, especially those with limited resources.
5. The amendment does not address gender affirming care issues.
6. The amendment does not address or change any laws involving parental rights over minors.

Cons:

1. The amendment would limit the ability of the Ohio General Assembly to regulate reproductive health decisions, including abortion, contraception, fertility treatment, continuation of pregnancies, and miscarriage care.
 2. While the amendment says it allows a health exception for abortions after viability, it uses language that relies on the life or health of the pregnant person without independently providing protections for the fetus.
 3. The amendment could only be changed by voters through a subsequent amendment.
 4. The amendment states that "every individual" has the right to carry out one's own reproductive decisions. This language could be interpreted by courts to mean that "every individual" includes minors, thus giving the General Assembly the opportunity to extend the current parental consent laws on abortions to other reproductive healthcare decisions of minors.
 5. The amendment states that reproductive decisions are "not limited to" contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one's own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion without identifying other situations to which the amendment might apply.
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ISSUE 2

ISSUE 2 BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposed Law

To Commercialize, Regulate, Legalize, and Tax the Adult Use of Cannabis
Proposed by Initiative Petition

To enact Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code

A majority yes vote is necessary for the law to pass.

To enact Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code, which would:

- Define adult use cannabis to mean marijuana as defined in Section 3719.01 of the Revised Code and establish the Division of Cannabis Control (the “Division”) within the Department of Commerce;
- Authorize the Division to regulate, investigate, and penalize adult use cannabis operators, adult use testing laboratories, and individuals required to be licensed;
- Legalize and regulate the cultivation, processing, sale, purchase, possession, home grow, and use of cannabis by adults at least twenty-one years of age;
- Create additional protections for individuals who engage in permitted adult use cannabis conduct;
- Establish the cannabis social equity and jobs program and require the Department of Development to certify program applicants based on social and economic disadvantage;
- Define “social disadvantage” to include membership in a racial or ethnic minority group, disability status, gender, or long-term residence in an area of high unemployment;
- Shield certain confidential information from disclosure to the public, including but not limited to any information reported to or collected by the Division that identifies or would tend to identify any adult use cannabis consumer and prohibit the Department of Development from releasing certain application information as public records;
- Require the Division to provide preferential treatment to applicants who have qualified for the cannabis social equity and jobs program based on social disadvantage when issuing level III adult use cannabis cultivator licenses and dispensary licenses;

- Prohibit certain local government entities from limiting specific research, levying a tax, or charge on adult use operations, their owner, or their property not generally charged on other business, and prohibit certain local government entities from prohibiting or limiting adult use cannabis home grow or prohibiting or restricting an activity authorized by the proposed law;
- Authorize a landlord or an employer to prohibit the adult use of cannabis in certain circumstances, and prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle while using or under the influence of adult use cannabis and from using any other combustible adult use cannabis while a passenger in a motor vehicle;
- Limit criminal liability for certain financial institutions that provide financial services to any lawful adult use cannabis operator or testing laboratory licensed under the proposed law;
- Require the Division to enter into an agreement with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to create a program for cannabis addiction services;
- Provide for the creation of five funds in the state treasury: the adult use tax fund; the cannabis social equity and jobs fund; the host community cannabis fund; the substance abuse and addiction fund; and the division of cannabis control and tax commissioner fund; and
- Provide for taxation of 10 percent on the sale of adult use cannabis by dispensaries in addition to usual sales taxes and require that all monies collected from the 10 percent tax levied to be deposited into the adult use tax fund and quarterly distributed as follows: 36 percent to the cannabis social equity and jobs fund; 36 percent to the host community cannabis facilities fund; 25 percent to the substance abuse and addiction fund; and three percent to the division of cannabis control and tax commission fund.

If passed, the law will become effective 30 days after the election.

SHALL THE PROPOSED LAW BE ADOPTED?

Yes

No

INFORMATION ON ISSUE 2

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This is an Act (law) which could be amended or repealed by the General Assembly and is NOT an amendment to the Ohio Constitution.

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Explanation:

If approved by voters, the initiated statute, titled An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis (the “Act”), would legalize and regulate the cultivation, manufacturing, and sale of marijuana in Ohio for adults who are at least 21 years old. Pursuant to the Act, Ohio residents would be permitted to cultivate up to six marijuana plants at their primary residence, with a maximum of twelve plants per residence where two or more persons who are at least 21 reside, and marijuana sales would be subject to a 10% adult-use tax, in addition to the traditional sales tax.

The Act also establishes a Division of Cannabis Control (“DCC”) within the Ohio Department of Commerce. The DCC would be responsible for overseeing the adult-use market with the authority to license, regulate, investigate, and penalize licensees and those required to be licensed under the Act. This centralization is meaningful because currently, under Ohio’s Medical Marijuana Control Program, dispensaries are regulated by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy while cultivators, processors, and testing laboratories are regulated by the Ohio Department of Commerce. The establishment of the DCC is expected to alleviate certain headaches resulting from the inter-agency regulatory overlap.

Another important impact of the An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis, and a result of adult-use legalization generally, is that the medical program’s burdensome advertising restrictions are expected to be relieved significantly. As many Ohio licensees are aware, Ohio currently has very restrictive, burdensome, and, at times vague, advertising rules related to medical marijuana that significantly reduce the impact and effectiveness of marketing and advertising. With the legalization of adult-use marijuana, Ohioans can expect to see more creative and targeted advertising through more traditional outlets.

The Act also provides a significant boost to existing industry participants. Licensees who have either a certificate of operation or provisional license

as of the effective date of the Act will be grandfathered into the adult-use program to expand into the recreational use area.

Importantly, there will be an opportunity for new operators to enter the Ohio market through a cannabis social equity and jobs program. At the outset, the DCC is to issue 40 recreational cultivator licenses and 50 adult-use dispensary licenses “with a preference” to applicants who are participants under the cannabis social equity and jobs program.

Pros:

1. Decriminalizes cannabis, reduces incarcerations, and encourages sentencing reform.
2. Recreational cannabis is purported to have lower risks than alcohol. Cannabis will be regulated like alcohol (21 and up).
3. Unlike alcohol, cannabis has some health and medical benefits. Medical marijuana already is legal.
4. Would create jobs in cultivation and sales. Would establish a cannabis social equity and jobs program to help employ the social and economic disadvantaged.
5. Cannabis legalization would spur more research on health benefits and risk of usage.

Cons:

1. Cannabis is addictive and could lead to more serious drug use. Today’s marijuana is much more potent than in the past.
 2. Cannabis alters thinking and coordination, which could have dangerous consequences especially in relation to operating motor vehicles and job impairment.
 3. Allowing home-grown cannabis will expose more youth to a psychoactive drug.
 4. Legalization of recreational cannabis will require another state bureaucracy with increased government costs.
 5. Legalization would require the Department of Mental Health and Addiction services to create a new program for cannabis addiction.
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**FALL 2023
CANDIDATES NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023, at the
TIFFIN MIDDLE SCHOOL, 7:00 P. M.**

**A RECORDING OF CANDIDATES NIGHT WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON THE TIFFIN AREA LWV
FACEBOOK PAGE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064391301731>

Here is a direct link to the video:

<https://www.facebook.com/100064391301731/videos/999345331121525>

Voting Precinct Locations

Precinct	Poll Location	Address
001 FOSTORIA 1-A	UAW HALL	1675 UNION ST FOSTORIA, OHIO, 44830
002 FOSTORIA 1-B	GEARY FAMILY YMCA ANNEX	125 W NORTH ST FOSTORIA OH, 44830
003 FOSTORIA 3-A	GEARY FAMILY YMCA ANNEX	125 W NORTH ST FOSTORIA OH, 44830
004 FOSTORIA 3-B	GEARY FAMILY YMCA ANNEX	125 W NORTH ST FOSTORIA OH, 44830
005 FOSTORIA 4-A	FOSTORIA FIRE DEPT	233 W SOUTH ST FOSTORIA OH, 44830
006 FOSTORIA 4-B	GOOD SHEPHERD HOME - PROMEDICA	751 COLUMBUS AVE FOSTORIA OH, 44830
007 TIFFIN 1-A	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	96 S MONROE ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
008 TIFFIN 1-B	TIFFIN-SENECA PUBLIC LIBRARY	77 JEFFERSON ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
009 TIFFIN 1-C	TIFFIN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER	600 N RIVER RD TIFFIN OH, 44883
010 TIFFIN 2-A	TIFFIN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER	600 N RIVER RD TIFFIN OH, 44883
011 TIFFIN 2-B	ST MARY'S SCHOOL	101 MIAMI ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
012 TIFFIN 2-C	TIFFIN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER	600 N RIVER RD TIFFIN OH, 44883
013 TIFFIN 3-A	ST MARY'S SCHOOL	101 MIAMI ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
014 TIFFIN 3-B	NCOESC	928 W MARKET ST AV TIFFIN OH, 44883
015 TIFFIN 3-C	ST MARY'S SCHOOL	101 MIAMI ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
016 TIFFIN 3-D	NCOESC	928 W MARKET ST AV TIFFIN OH, 44883

Precinct	Poll Location	Address
017 TIFFIN 4-A	FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH	300 MELMORE ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
018 TIFFIN 4-B	FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH	300 MELMORE ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
019 TIFFIN 4-C	FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH	300 MELMORE ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
020 TIFFIN 4-D	UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH	419 COE ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
021 GREEN SPRINGS VILLAGE	GSV CITY BLDG	120 CATHERINE ST GREEN SPRINGS OH, 44836
022 ADAMS TOWNSHIP	ADAMS TWP RODGER YOUNG VFW HALL	5912 CR 44 GREEN SPRINGS OH, 44836
023 NEW RIEGEL VILLAGE	NR JR HIGH GYM	44 N PERRY ST NEW RIEGEL OH, 44853
024 BIG SPRING TOWNSHIP	NR JR HIGH GYM	44 N PERRY ST NEW RIEGEL OH, 44853
025 BLOOMVILLE VILLAGE	BLOOMVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER	10 BEEGHLY AVE BLOOMVILLE OH, 44818
026 BLOOM TOWNSHIP	BLOOM TWP FIRE STATION	74 S MARION ST BLOOMVILLE OH, 44818
027 CLINTON A	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION	837 N SR 101 TIFFIN OH, 44883
028 CLINTON B	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION	837 N SR 101 TIFFIN OH, 44883
029 CLINTON C	CLINTON #2 FIRE STATION	863 E US 224 TIFFIN OH, 44883
030 CLINTON D	CLINTON TWP FIRE STATION	837 N SR 101 TIFFIN OH, 44883
031 CLINTON E	CLINTON #2 FIRE STATION	863 E US 224 TIFFIN OH, 44883

Precinct	Poll Location	Address
032 EDEN NORTH	EDEN TWP COUNTY GARAGE	3210 S SR 100 TIFFIN OH, 44883
033 EDEN SOUTH	EDEN TWP HALL AND FIRE STATION	6571 S SR 100 MELMORE OH, 44845
034 HOPEWELL A	NCOESC	928 W MARKET ST TIFFIN OH, 44883
035 HOPEWELL B	HOPEWELL TWP TRUSTEE OFFICE	5281 W TR 112 TIFFIN OH, 44883
036 HOPEWELL C	BASCOM FIRE STATION	5450 W TIFFIN ST BASCOM OH, 44809
037 JACKSON TOWNSHIP	JACKSON TWP HOUSE	10014 W CR 28 FOSTORIA OH, 44830
038 BETTSVILLE VILLAGE	BETTSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION	100 STATE ST BETTSVILLE OH, 44815
039 LIBERTY A	BETTSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION	100 STATE ST BETTSVILLE OH, 44815
040 LIBERTY B	KANSAS FIRE STATION	5980 W SR 635 KANSAS OH, 44841
041 LOUDON NORTH	LOUDON TWP OFFICE	9970 WEST TR 112 FOSTORIA OH, 44830
042 LOUDON SOUTH	LOUDON TWP OFFICE	9970 WEST TR 112 FOSTORIA OH, 44830
043 PLEASANT TOWNSHIP	PLEASANT TWP HOUSE	850 TR 15 OLD FORT OH, 44861
044 REED TOWNSHIP	ATTICA FAIRGROUNDS – SOCIAL HALL	15127 E TR 12 ATTICA, OH 44807
045 REPUBLIC VILL	SCIPIO TOWNSHIP ANNEX BUILDING	309 S MADISON ST REPUBLIC OH, 44867
046 SCIPIO TOWNSHIP	SCIPIO TOWNSHIP ANNEX BUILDING	309 S MADISON ST REPUBLIC OH, 44867
047 SENECA A	SYCAMORE FIRE STATION #2	4460 TR 1072 MCCUTCHENVILLE OH, 44844

Precinct	Poll Location	Address
048 SENECA B	SYCAMORE FIRE STATION #2	4460 TR 1072 MCCUTCHENVILLE OH, 44844
049 THOMPSON TOWNSHIP	ZION UCC CHURCH AT FIRESIDE	13525 TR 178 BELLEVUE OH, 44811
050 ATTICA VILLAGE	ATTICA FAIRGROUNDS – SOCIAL HALL	15127 E TR 12 ATTICA, OH 44807
051 VENICE TOWNSHIP	ATTICA FAIRGROUNDS – SOCIAL HALL	15127 E TR 12 ATTICA, OH 44807

Did You Find This Voter Guide Useful?

The League of Women Voters of the Tiffin Area publishes and distributes this Voter Guide. Such coverage of future elections can only happen with the assistance of interested citizens. Your contribution to the League of Women Voters is greatly appreciated. Please send your contribution to:

**League of Women Voters of the
Tiffin Area
P.O. Box 174
Tiffin, OH 44883**

Be A Part of It! Join

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE TIFFIN AREA

For More Information Contact:

League of Women Voters
of the Tiffin Area
P.O. Box 174
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

www.lwvoftiffin.org

email to:

tiffinleagueofwomenvoters@gmail.com



The mission of the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

In 1920, just six months before the U.S. Constitution was amended to give women the right to vote, the National American Woman Suffrage Association's President, Carrie Chapman Catt, proposed the creation of the League of Women Voters. The League's first purpose was to teach women how to exercise their new right to vote. Thus, the League was to "finish the fight" that the suffragists had started. For over 100 years the League has continued to serve all citizens and has opened its membership to any citizen of voting age, male or female. Today, the League of Women Voters is a three-tier organization, including Leagues at the local, state, and national levels. A member joining any of the 29 local Leagues in Ohio is automatically a member of the Ohio and the U.S. Leagues.

The Tiffin League was established in 1970 after a couple of women who had been members in other communities moved to town and realized there was no League.

The first 2 years were spent learning about our community, the political process at the city, county, state, and national levels.

As a citizen education organization, the League registers voters, provides unbiased information on candidates and issues, sponsors debates and candidates' nights, and produces informational publications on critical public policy issues. Educational publications published by the League are on such topics as Ohio government, Ohio government finances, writing your government representatives, Ohio's open meetings law, and education finance in the state. Today membership is open to men and women 18 years of age and older.

As a multi-issue organization, there is a wide variety of critical areas in which the League concentrates its efforts through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters takes political action on issues on which member agreement has been reached. The Ohio League currently has positions on the Ohio constitution, apportionment/districting, state government finances, children's services, primary and secondary education, juvenile justice, and natural resources. The Tiffin League has positions on City Charter, City Services, Parks and Recreation, County Finances/Services, Housing in Tiffin, Local Education Funding, Local Election Reform, Local Health Care Services, Behavioral Health Services, and Recycling.

NONPARTISANSHIP:

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan - it neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. The League may take political action on issues on which member agreement has been reached. Members, as individuals, are encouraged to participate fully in the political process.