

League of Women Voters® **VOTERS GUIDE**

For the General Election November 3, 2015

Nonpartisan Information Published as a Public Service by the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Shaker Heights Chapter www.shakerlwv.org

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 6:30 A.M. UNTIL 7:30 P.M.

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SCHOOL BOARD,
CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR
"Meet the
CANDIDATES
Night"

Thursday, October 1 6:45-8:30 PM

Shaker Library, 16500 Van Aken meeting rooms E&F

co-sponsor: Shaker Heights Public Library

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Monday, October 5, 2015

Q. WHERE CAN I REGISTER TO VOTE OR CHANGE MY ADDRESS?

A. Any county Board of Elections (even a different county from where you live).

Any public high school or vocational school. Any place where you can renew your driver's license.

Public libraries, some government offices, the Secretary of State's office, not the post office.

You can also register by mail. Just pick up a form from the places listed above. You can also call your local Board of Elections (216-443-8683) or visit its websites, *Boe.cuyahogacounty.us* OR *www.443vote.com*, or the Secretary of State's Office and they will mail you a registration form. **You have to register by October 5th to vote in the November 3rd General Election.**

Q. WILL I EVER HAVE TO RE-REGISTER?

A. You must always be registered at your current address, so even if you move within a county, you must notify in writing your county Board of Elections at least 30 days before an election. They will change your registration to your new address. If you forgot to change your address at least 30 days before, you may have to vote provisionally. Note: You can **change your address online** at the Sectretary of State's website: *www.sos.state.oh.us* by **October 5, 2015** and provide your driver's license or state ID number, last 4 digits of your SS#, date of birth.

- •If you move to a different county, you must fill out a new registration for that county at least 30 days before an election or update your address online as above by October 5th.
- •If you change your name (for example, by marriage), notify the Board of Elections by October 5th.
- •If you have any questions regarding your voting status, call the Board of Elections or visit *myohiovote.com*.

About the Voters Guide

Candidate information in this Voters Guide was supplied by the candidates, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and the Ohio Secretary of State. Questions were selected by The League of Women Voters - Shaker Heights Chapter and addressed to the candidates. Candidates were informed that each response would be printed exactly as received. Each candidate is solely responsible for the content of the reply. Word limitations were required. Candidate responses are listed in alphabetical order.

Information and answers from the candidates have not been evaluated in any way. In publishing this material, the LWV neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate who appears here. The LWV does not and cannot assume responsibility for any candidate's reply. Candidates contacted were those on record with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections as of August 5, 2015.

Voter Identification Requirements – from the Cuyahoga Board of Elections

www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us

Voter ID - Ohio accepts a wide variety of documents for voter ID including:

- An **Ohio driver's license or state ID card** with your name and photo. The card must not be expired, but it can have an old address if registration is up to date.
- A U.S. Military ID with your name and photo (address not required).
- A **government ID** with your name, current address, and photo. Note that a student ID and a US passport are **not** accepted.
- An original or copy of one of the following documents with your name and current address: utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, pay stub, government check, or other government document. The document must have a date within one year of Election Day.

If you do not have any of the above, you may use the last 4 digits of your Social Security number, but you will have to vote a provisional ballot. It will be counted so long as the number matches your voter registration. Be sure to complete all fields on the provisional ballot form.

Published as a Public Service by League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland Shaker Heights Chapter

www.shakerlwv.org

LWV-Shaker Heights Cabinet

Chair: Audrey Morris; Vice Chairs: Terry Stoller, Mary LaVigne-Butler Recording Secretary: Gail Gibson; Treasurer: Meg Weingart; Ex Officio: Dorothy Greenslade **Board Members**

Michael Baron Paulanita Barker Anne Batzell Cindy Crosby Marcia Goldberg Linda Lissauer Lynn McClelland Kurt Miller Susan Stechschulte Susan Troia Holly Wang The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues.

The League of Women Voters does not endorse political candidates. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age.

To join or to learn more about League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland Shaker Heights Chapter, go to our website at www.shakerlwv.org or click on the QR code!



Early Voting 2 Ways -- starts October 6th Vote by Mail or Vote in Person

O. CAN I VOTE BEFORE ELECTION DAY?

A. Yes. Any qualified Ohio voter whose registration information is up to date may request and Vote By Mail (formerly known as an absentee ballot) without stating a reason. You can **vote early BY MAIL** or **IN PERSON** at the Board of Elections.

TO VOTE EARLY BY MAIL, you **must request** an application. **NOTE this application will not be mailed to you for this election**. You can download an application from the Board of Elections website, *boe.cuyahogacounty.us*, request one by phone to the Board of Elections 216-443-8683, or by writing a letter to the Board of Elections. When you receive the application you will be asked for your name, address, identification, date of birth, and where you want your ballot mailed.

Acceptable forms of ID are: the last four digits of your Social Security number, your driver's license number (2 letters followed by 6 numbers) or a copy of your current and valid photo ID, military ID, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and current address. (Note: A student ID, US passport, or your voter registration acknowledgement notice, that the board of elections mailed to you, cannot be used as proof of identification.)

Your ballot will be mailed to you with directions on how to fill out the forms and the ballot. Your mailed ballot must be postmarked by the day before the election and received by 10 days after the election. The BOE will tell you how much it costs to mail the ballot and you must put adequate postage on the return envelope. It is frequently more than one first-class stamp.

You or a relative may take your absentee ballot to the BOE no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

If you request an absentee ballot, but do not mail or deliver it to the BOE, you MAY vote a provisional ballot at the polls on Election Day.

Voting by mail has many advantages: no waiting in line, no need to provide any ID besides the last four digits of your Social Security number, weather is not a factor, and you don't have to worry about where to vote. You can gather information about candidates and issues and calmly evaluate your choices.

TO VOTE EARLY IN PERSON: As soon as the absentee ballot is available on October 6th, you may go to the BOE during business hours and fill in the application, immediately receive a ballot and vote. The deadline for voting early in person has changed with nearly every election. See below for a list of when the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is open for voting.

Q. CAN I VOTE IF I AM IN THE MILITARY or LIVING OVERSEAS?

A. Yes. You are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). You can request an application online from the BOE or the Secretary of State of Ohio, a designated relative can request an application for you, or you may use the current Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), available online at www.fvap.gov. The FPCA may be used both to register to vote and to request absentee ballots. All these methods provide instructions on deadlines and on how to vote. You should begin the process as soon as possible before an election.

O. CAN I VOTE IF I AM AWAY AT COLLEGE?

A. Yes. You can follow the same application procedure described above in the vote by mail section and have your ballot mailed to you at college. Your mailed ballot must be postmarked by the day before the election - November 2nd -- and received by the BOE by 10 days after the election.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2015 Early In-person Voting Days and Hours

2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44115

www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us

Voter Hotline: 216-443-8683

8am-5pm, Tuesday-Friday on Oct. 6-9 & Oct. 13-16 (closed 10/12 for Col. Day)

8am-7pm, Monday-Friday on Oct. 19-23 & Oct. 26-30

8am-4pm on Sat. Oct. 31

1pm - 5pm on Sun. Nov. 1

8am - 2pm on Mon. Nov. 2

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SHAKER HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years SALARY: NONE 2 TO BE ELECTED

BILL CLAWSON 2916 Warrington Road 44120

ClawsonWL@gmail.com www.billclawson.com

Occupation: Senior Product Manager, Education: Harvard Business School, MBA

University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business,

BS in Economics

Qualifications for office: President, Shaker Heights CSD Board of Education (1/2014 – current)

Vice President, Shaker Heights CSD Board of Education (7/2012 – 12/2013)

Elected Board Member, Shaker Heights CSD Board of Education (1/2012 – current)

Vice President, PTO Council (7/2010 – 7/2011) Treasurer, Boulevard PTO (7/2008 – 6/2010)

Progressive Insurance

Question 1: We have aging school facilities. Given that no operating levy is forecast over the next 5 years and there is minimal restricted state funding towards renovation, when is the time to address updating our facilities? What suggestions do you have for modernizing, improving or replacing current facilities? The District has already begun a facilities review. In the fall of 2014, we completed a free facilities assessment provided by the Ohio School Facilities Commission. In June of this year, teachers, students, and parents were engaged in an Educational Visioning discussion that helped define what teaching practices serve our students best and further our future as an International Baccalaureate district. Over the next several months, the facilities planning process will work toward recommendations for our community.

An idea requiring research is a revamped Middle School that serves not only our students, but the community overall. This might include combining Bertram Woods with the school library to better utilize the physical structure, lower operating costs, and welcome more positive adult role models into the school. In addition, creating a community-oriented recreation facility that serves as a school gymnasium and an indoor recreation center would create another attractive resource for residents.

Question 2: Recognizing state mandates for testing and parent concerns on the amount of testing, how can Shaker use the results from any tests to improve student outcomes, curriculum and the district itself? What should the district do regarding testing to measure teacher performance? State mandated testing is challenging for schools and parents. As a District and a community, Shaker successfully lobbied legislators to reduce the time allocated to testing. The elimination of PARCC was a vital victory that not only reduces the amount of testing time, but also sets the measurement period near the actual course conclusion. If we can rely on a consistent set of state assessments that are both timely in their return to teachers and accurately measure student growth, we can reduce the number and type of other standardized assessments conducted within the District.

The state mandated Ohio Teacher Evaluation System uses standardized assessments for teacher evaluations. Between 35% and 50% of a teacher's evaluation is based on student growth measures determined by state tests. However, our District is best served if permission is granted to use Shaker-driven assessments prepared by our teachers for our students as growth measurement tools.

Question 3: What are the top three priorities for the school system and how will you move these intiatives forward?

District priorities are described in the <u>Strategic Plan</u>. It was developed in collaboration with all aspects of our community and was approved by the Board. During Year 1, each goal was reviewed during public Board meetings.

Delivery of the Shaker Experience and Communication, while balancing the pace of change, are vital. The Shaker Experience strives to engage all students in an enriching educational experience that enables them to achieve educational milestones and meet or exceed graduation requirements. By furthering District integration of the International Baccalaureate Programme, expanding offerings for our highest performing students, and providing students and staff with the supports they need to deliver 21st century skills, we will develop young adults with an entrepreneurial spirit who are prepared for success.

The Communication goal requires development of a comprehensive engagement strategy that considers all aspects of our community and expands the active partnerships with residents, businesses, and civic organizations.

Question 4: 1. What do you think the City can do to help the schools in their effort to reach all Shaker families? What possible collaborations do you see? Over the past two years, the City and Schools have made strides in better collaboration. For example, joint discussions led to the leasing of the STJ Building to the District for the new Innovative Center for Personalized Learning. Further, work with area real estate agents to better market the District also evolved from collaborative conversations.

To reach all Shaker families, there are three new opportunities. First, the schools' Director of Communication could work with the City to develop and execute a joint communication strategy for families that engages with City communications, but are not currently involved with the schools. Second, expanding the OneCommunity broadband service from Shaker LaunchHouse into our school buildings and into student households where internet access is not available, improves information access. Third, expanding and jointly marketing evolving school enrichment offerings with the City summer recreation program would create a natural interaction that drives better communication.

SHAKER HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 v	vears	SALARY: NONE	2 TO BE ELECTED

JEFF ISAACS 14507 Drexmore Road 44120

Jeff.Isaacs3@gmail.com Facebook; Jeff Isaacs for Shaker Schools

Occupation: I represent a Japanese manufacturer of Education: Vassar College, BA

art hanging systems used by museums/galleries. University of Chicago, MA in East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Qualifications for office: I've been an active parent volunteer serving as Co-PTA President at Boulevard, and Co-PTO Council President. In my previous work life, I was a teacher at universities and junior high schools in Japan, and at universities in the US.

Question 1: We have aging school facilities. Given that no operating levy is forecast over the next 5 years and there is minimal restricted state funding towards renovation, when is the time to address updating our facilities? What suggestions do you have for modernizing, improving or replacing current facilities?

Now is the time. The first step was to take stock of the district's entire physical plant, an effort that began last year. The next phase, which began earlier this year, is a thoughtful assessment of our needs. That effort must include the voices of our teachers, staff, parents and experts in and beyond our community. As it proceeds, that Educational Visioning process must also take into account the rapidly changing technological landscape as well as anticipate the physical shape of future learning spaces. Taking into account long-term demographic trends and future forecasts, and with space/shape priorities firmly in mind, then it is time to agree on a plan to update our facilities. Two important ingredients of any facilities project must be energy efficiency and a long-term perspective that factors in its entire life-cycle and maintenance needs.

Question 2: Recognizing state mandates for testing and parent concerns on the amount of testing, how can Shaker use the results from any tests to improve student outcomes, curriculum and the district itself? What should the district do regarding testing to measure teacher performance? During the past year I was a member of the steering committee of Test Mania. One lesson that I learned is that the data generated by State mandated tests is badly out of synch with what teachers, administrators and parents need to know about our students. Part of the problem is that standardized tests can provide only a limited amount of useful information about student achievement. A bigger part of the problem is that our district needs greater flexibility to choose its own evaluative tools. We must continue to advocate for a better way to improve student outcomes. Similarly, student performance on tests is not an appropriate way to track teacher effectiveness. We are bound by the laws of the State of Ohio, but we can and must be active in the conversation to propose alternative solutions to evaluating teachers.

Question 3: What are the top three priorities for the school system and how will you move these intiatives forward?

The top three priorities are engaged, two-way communication, improving our effectiveness in meeting the needs of all of our students, and establishing a carefully considered long-term plan for our beautiful but aging facilities. We must also nurture and, indeed, improve upon our amazing array of AP and IB offerings, our music programs, our language offerings, our theater program, our art and sports programs, and our services for children with additional educational needs.

We need to continue to move toward collaborative, informed discussion of issues that impact stakeholders. We also need to do an even better job explaining the Shaker experience to our neighbors and to potential new residents.

Question 4: 1. What do you think the City can do to help the schools in their effort to reach all Shaker families? What possible collaborations do you see?

The interest is mutual, and the best endeavors will also be mutual. A great example already exists. In 2014, the City made the lower level of the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Center available to the schools for use as the Innovative Center for Personalized Learning. This collaboration allowed 40 families in our community to have their sons and daughters continue their education in Shaker with a talented and engaged teaching staff rather than traveling to a distant community each day. In the past, those same students were served by North Coast Academy in Richmond Heights.

The City-School-Libraries partnership is a rich area of opportunity. For example, how do we better use the Family Engagement Center and can we involve the Libraries? Is there a connection to be expanded with Launch House? Is there an opportunity in the new Van Aken district? All of these should be discussed and explored.

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years SALARY: \$9,000/YEAR 4 TO BE ELECTED

SEAN P. MALONE

sean@seanmaloneforshakerheights.com www.facebook.com/seanmaloneforshaker 2871 Sedgewick Road 44120 www.seanmaloneforshakerheights.com

Occupation: Attorney Education: Shaker Schools K-12 (1995); BA College of Wooster (1999);

JD Ohio State Moritz College of Law (2003)

Qualifications for office: Citizen Member, Shaker Heights Safety and Public Works Committee (2014-15); Member, Shaker Heights Climate Change Task Force (2015); Graduate, Shaker Citizens Police Academy (2015); Attorney, Kohrman Jackson & Krantz (2011-2015) and Jones Day (2003-2011); Pro Bono Committee Member, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland; Volunteer, CMBA's 3-Rs Program (2011-15).

Question 1: What is the biggest challenge that the city of Shaker Heights faces and what are your thoughts on how to handle it? Our biggest challenge is to maintain and build on what makes Shaker special even as we increase collaboration with neighboring cities to address challenges confronting all of Northeast Ohio. We have great schools, beautiful parks, historic housing, and family-friendly neighborhoods designed around public transportation. Above all, we have a diverse community that cares about Shaker and each other. But we also face many of the same challenges as our neighbors: aging infrastructure, high taxes, declining population, and an economy in transition. To increase opportunities for all our residents, and to attract and retain new residents, not only will we need to broaden our tax base with business development, keep delivering high quality services with greater efficiency, and promote Shaker's merits, we will have to deepen and expand regional partnerships. As we do, we must take care to preserve and improve on what's best about our city.

Question 2: What is council's role in shaping the Van Aken Development effort? What can be done to ensure vibrancy of Chagrin/Lee area as well and to foster economic growth city-wide? The Van Aken redevelopment is a tremendous opportunity for Shaker. Council and the administration can help by recruiting successful businesses to the district and ensuring that the project stays on or ahead of schedule, integrates with surrounding neighborhoods, and delivers an inviting, sustainable public gathering place with architectural character. The city also should remain sensitive to businesses that are displaced or negatively impacted by construction, carefully steward its own contributions to the project, and ensure that residents have meaningful chances to provide feedback. Developing the Chagrin-Lee and Larchmere corridors could be even more transformative and will require greater collaboration with Cleveland and the Shaker School District, strong personal relationships with landlords and business owners, consistent attention and salesmanship from council, more public involvement, and steady progress.

Question 3: The citizens of Shaker want more give and take in discussion with the city before decisions are announced. How can the city be more transparent and responsive? Council and the administration should encourage active civic participation by all residents and businesses. We should try to rely even more on the insights and abilities of our many talented residents and solicit public input on all major decisions by engaging with the public in every available format, including at community meetings, public events, and online through social media. Shaker already publishes many of its records online, but council members can further disseminate and summarize this information through word of mouth and on social media. Shaker also should explore online publication of video or audio recordings of council meetings and consider joining *ohiocheckbook.com* to make spending information more accessible.

Question 4: Our infrastructure is aging. What is the plan to update and how will we pay for it?

Investing in Shaker's infrastructure, including sewers, dams, roads, rails, and broadband, is crucial. The city already has budgeted several million dollars for sewer repairs, but we need to better understand the scope of other potential problems. If the Ohio Supreme Court refuses to allow the Sewer District to take a regional approach to stormwater management, we should partner with neighboring cities on financing solutions and suggest new state legislation to address the problem. Ultimately, we may need to issue bonds to pay for repairs or improvements, but we should exhaust all other options first. We also should consider a strategic investment that upgrades and increases access to high speed broadband to make our community a more attractive place to live and work. Finally, we need to urge RTA to improve its rails, cars, and communications so we can more fully capitalize on Shaker's most unique transportation asset.

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years SALARY: \$9,000/YEAR 4 TO BE ELECTED

NANCY R. MOORE 3697 Townley Road 44122 nrmoore1949@gmail.com www.mooreforcity.com

Occupation: member, Shaker Heights City Council Education: BA Vassar College, George Washington University;

MS Georgetown University

Qualifications for office: 8 years, Shaker Hts. Board of Education; 12 years, Shaker Hts. City Council

Question 1: What is the biggest challenge that the city of Shaker Heights faces and what are your thoughts on how to handle it? Shaker Heights is a first tier suburb in a declining metropolitan area where developers and funding agencies are focused on outer ring suburbs and Cleveland. Our threats include declining population, loss of tax base, decline in retail-commercial centers and vulnerable neighborhoods, all of which have been exacerbated by the housing market's economic collapse and state actions negatively impacting local governments.

To survive and prosper we must continue to restructure our workforce, outsource services where appropriate, self-insure (workers' comp, healthcare), seek new collective bargaining approaches and enhance revenue by 1) attracting and retaining businesses and residents through economic development and 2) by improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods through enforcing housing code, providing incentives to modernize and make homes energy-efficient, demolishing deteriorated vacant homes, preserving historic homes, providing citywide broadband access, increasing police presence, improving recreational spaces, repairing infrastructure and reinvesting in our commercial centers and business corridors.

Question 2: What is council's role in shaping the Van Aken Development effort? What can be done to ensure vibrancy of Chagrin/Lee area as well and to foster economic growth city-wide? As elected representatives of the community, Council's principal role is to weigh both the short term and long term risks and benefits of each decision in the development process and work toward a public consensus that represents the best interests of our community.

To ensure the vibrancy of the Lee/Chagrin area and foster economic growth citywide, City Council together with the Shaker Heights Development Corporation must 1) continue efforts to revitalize near neighborhoods and connect surrounding businesses, 2) consolidate parcels/property and seek 'engaged' owners, 3) outreach to new businesses identified in our strategic plan and hold developers' forums to connect interested parties, 4) adjust zoning, 5) promote slower vehicular speed and reduce traffic for pedestrian, bicycle and business safety, 6) improve streetscape through sustainable, green infrastructure, 7) provide broadband access, 8) continue to support LaunchHouse, and 9) develop and implement strategies to market parcels on west side of Lee Road.

Question 3: The citizens of Shaker want more give and take in discussion with the city before decisions are announced. How can the city be more transparent and responsive? Today citizens no longer go to informational public meetings; they want information brought to them through a variety of ubiquitous tech devices with myriad mobile applications BEFORE DECISIONS are made. The City is ahead of this curve with its redesigned Shakeronline website, active use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor.com), tele-townhall meetings and regular e-blasts and agendas. The Landmark Commission with the Public Library recently created a mobile app on local historic homes and housing building records. Public Works will release the City's new recycling app this fall. In the future ever-faster data transmission will be facilitated through a citywide broadband network as tech savvy citizens involved in a variety of committees help us plug into more existing civic networks. To build neighborhood community engagement, Community Network Building, a new communication model, will soon bring people from different networks together to identify a project/problem and work collectively to address it.

Question 4: Our infrastructure is aging. What is the plan to update and how will we pay for it?

Our City must improve identification of long term capital infrastructure needs and their funding sources by developing a five-year capital plan for sewer, waterline and road repairs from an annual needs assessment that also includes OEPA-mandated violations, lake dredging and dam reconstruction.

With climate change, the 'new normal' of torrential, high-volume water events and our deferred infrastructure reparis, unless/until the Ohio Supreme Court permits N.E.O.R.S.D. to adequately fund new grey and green infrastructure needs, our City will have to fund sewer repairs, lake dredging and dam reconstruction through a combination of general fund dollars and debt. Continuing our agreement for waterline replacement with Cleveland has saved taxpayers more than \$2 million since 2013.

We must continue our annual road evaluation, funding repairs at minimum at the current level of \$1-1.5 million/year and seeking to increase that to \$2 million/year through additional general fund dollars, joint contracting, grants and debt.

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years SALARY: \$9,000/YEAR 4 TO BE ELECTED

JULIANNA JOHNSTON SENTURIA votejjs@vahoo.com

www.votejjs.com

14565 Drexmore Road 44120

Occupation: Non-profit manager Education: MA American Politics and Policy; BA Political Science

Ohio University; working on a second MA of Non-Profit

Administration at John Carroll University.

Qualifications for office: Actively involved in the community including: 20+ years of experience working in non-profit managment; League of Women Voters - Shaker Heights (past president, Board Member, City Council Observer); PTO (Past-Co-President of Boulevard PTO, other executive positions); parent of three Shaker students.

Question 1: What is the biggest challenge that the city of Shaker Heights faces and what are your thoughts on how to handle it?

The biggest challenge facing the city is how to manage growing capital investment needs. Our aging sewer system needs repairs, improvements and monitoring. Our roads require annual repair work and replacement. Shaker's parks, lakes and dams need our ongoing attention and crucial repairs. And finally, our safety and service departments have essential vehicle and equipment needs. Careful planning for these needs is essential. That's why the city is working now to project capital needs over the next ten years so that a combination of funding can be pooled together to make sure we maintain the quality and services that we expect.

Question 2: What is council's role in shaping the Van Aken Development effort? What can be done to ensure vibrancy of Chagrin/Lee area as well and to foster economic growth city-wide? The details matter and that's where the city's process and committees come into play. The plans for the Van Aken District go through many reviews in order to make sure that the development will 'fit' in Shaker. And, in the meantime, safety forces and marketing staff continue to work hard to make the area navigable while the construction is completed. Finally, our economic development team continues to offer partnership and support where ever appropriate as the private developer works to finalize plans for tenants. Working with the Shaker Heights Development Corporation on future plans for the Lee Road corridor and economic development in general is essential.

Question 3: The citizens of Shaker want more give and take in discussion with the city before decisions are announced. How can the city be more transparent and responsive? The city has worked to build its outgoing communication systems through numerous email lists, updated website, award winning magazine and an established social media presence. Citizen input is gathered regularly through membership on a variety of committees representing every aspect of city decision making. Yet, there is still room for improvement. Having a conversation before a decision is fundamentally different than announcing a decision. Committee work helps a lot in this area, but we can also do a better job of using public hearings in an interactive format to gather ideas. That's why as Chair of the Climate Change Task Force, I helped structure a public meeting that asked participants to rotate from table to table, looking over different ideas and sharing their own opinion. The Task Force report will include this broader input and therefore be more reflective of the community as a whole.

Question 4: Our infrastructure is aging. What is the plan to update and how will we pay for it?

As mentioned above, aging sewers, roads, culverts, curbs, water lines, dams, bridges and other forms of infrastructure require maintenance, repair and sometimes rebuilding. The city is working on a ten year plan that will help us examine our immediate needs and also what is coming with a longer view. This will allow us to bring together resources which will likely be a combination of strategic borrowing, use of general funds as part of the regular budget cycle, and outside grants from county, state and federal governmental sources whenever possible. I don't consider increased taxes an option.

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years SALARY: \$9,000/YEAR 4 TO BE ELECTED

EARL WILLIAMS JR. i10e5w23@gmail.com

19701 Fairmount Blvd 44118

Occupation: Attorney / City Councilmember Education: Bachelor of Science / Juris Doctor

Qualifications for office: 12 years as member of City Council

Question 1:What is the biggest challenge that the city of Shaker Heights faces and what are your thoughts on how to handle it?

Continuing to attract and retain high quality residents with families and businesses. Our strategic plans during the past 12 years have weathered serious economic challenges and provided the city with a lens to focus on what competitive forces we face in the future. The region (NE Ohio) is not experiencing significant growth and the city is going to be subject to this concern going forward. We must continue to reinvest in our infrastructure (roads, bridges, lakes, dams, residential and commercial areas, etc.) over the longer term.

Question 2: What is council's role in shaping the Van Aken Development effort? What can be done to ensure vibrancy of Chagrin/Lee area as well and to foster economic growth city-wide?

City Council has chaired and served on committees that have examined and approved for recommendation to the full Council all segments of the planning, zoning and financing of the Van Aken Development. The developer has shared all information we have asked to see and has been cooperative in addressing those concerns of residents that have been submitted to Councilmembers. As to ensuring vibrancy of the Chagrin Lee area, review of the Shaker Heights Development Corporation plan for the redevelopment of the area and the ongoing efforts that exist presently are available on the Shaker Heights website under the heading of economic development.

Question 3: The citizens of Shaker want more give and take in discussion with the city before decisions are announced. How can the city be more transparent and responsive?

I would ask all those who feel this way to attend Council meetings, contact Council members and review the printed materials that are made available to all who wish to receive our information. I think that with the exception of those items that are discussed in executive session, the law Ohio state law requires that all information be available to the public.

Question 4: Our infrastructure is aging. What is the plan to update and how will we pay for it?

The city is continuing to improve infrastructure with each year's budget. The city must apply for and receive funding from other governing bodies (federal, state, county, nonprofit) for most of the infrastructure costs. We in Shaker Heights have a unique and varied infrastructure mix of project needs that will probably continue to be funded in this manner. As our city is 100+ yeras old we will continue to address infrastructure issues that are ripe with an aging city. Our public works department has the plan of action and the progress we are making.

SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY MAYOR

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years SALARY: \$87,000/YEAR 1 TO BE ELECTED

EARL M. LEIKEN 20815 Colby Road 44122 earl.leiken@shakeronline.com

Occupation: Mayor of Shaker Heights Education: Cleveland Heights High School;

Harvard College; Harvard Law School

Qualifications for office:

Member Shaker Heights Board of Education (President 1987-88) Member Shaker Heights City Council (Vice Mayor 2006-7) Mayor of Shaker Heights (2008-present)

Question 1: What is the greatest challenge facing the city and what should be done about it?

The economic decline of our region. Since 1970, while the U.S. has grown by 100 million people, Cuyahoga County has lost 400,000 residents and Cleveland has lost 450,000. The problem has been exacerbated by outward movement of the population and the abandonment of the inner core. All of this has directly impacted demand for Shaker homes and housing prices, caused vacancies and foreclosures and reduced our tax base. Shaker was designed as a premier suburb in a strong metropolitan area with a robust industrial center. We have had to adjust to dramatically changed circumstances.

The solution includes encouraging growth in the region and Cleveland. However, we must also make our community as attractive as possible to residents and businesses to succeed regardless of what happens outside our borders. Our economic development plan, housing revitalization plan and the redevelopment of Van Aken are all a part of this effort.

Question 2: Citizens of Shaker would like more give and take in discussion before decisions are announced. How can the city be more transparent and responsive? Shaker follows the unusual practice of including citizens as members of its Council committees for this very reason. In addition, we have regular public hearings on a variety of matters and provide opportunities for public comment on items being considered by Council at the beginning of every meeting before Council discusses them. Every effort is made to provide three readings on issues of importance to the community so there is ample notice and plenty of time for public comment over a period of weeks. Our town halls also focus on issues of public importance and are scheduled primarily for the purpose of providing a vehicle for public discussion on issues of importance. Our public forums on Van Aken development were extremely well attended. We can maximize opportunities for public discussion and input by constantly focusing on this as an important goal before major decisions are made.

Question 3: Cuyahoga County has a shrinking population with increasing infrastructure needs and 59 municipalities. Regionalism is ever more important. How can Shaker continue to find ways to collaborate with neighboring communities? Increased collaboration is essential. The Cleveland water department has financial responsibility for our water lines and the County is responsible for maintaining our sewer lines. We are cooperating with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District on a plan to deal with stormwater management including the dredging of our lakes and repair of our dams. We have a joint dispatch center for fire with Cleveland Heights and University Heights and are seeking to add police and include South Euclid. We have a regional police swat squad. We have tried to merge fire departments with University Heights and would have done so except for opposition from UH firefighters. We do have a mutual aid agreement with many other cities on fire services. Council has just approved an arrangement to house most of our prisoners in Solon. We continue to look for opportunities for regional collaboration.

Question 4: What do you see your legacy as Mayor of Shaker Heights to be?

My goal is to work with City Council, our administrative staff, other public officials and our residents to see that Shaker is a strong, highly desirable community in which to live and work and in an excellent position to succeed in the 21st century when I leave office. This requires that we adapt to changing circumstances and effectively deploy finite resources to provide first-rate services, address our infrastructure needs, strengthen our neighborhoods, revitalize our commercial-retail centers and grow our business tax base. I hope to be seen as a mayor who provided leadership which overcame the financial adversity caused by the 2008 recession, the state reduction of municipal funding and the problems posed by regional economic decline and who worked well with others in a successful team effort which achieved the positive goals outlined above.

STATE BALLOT ISSUES

2015 General Election State Ballot Issues League of Women Voters Explanations, Pros, Cons

The summaries of the three ballot issues were prepared by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund. The pros and cons listed for each issue are abbreviated versions of the arguments put forward by the respective issue campaigns. The title listed for each issue is the official title assigned by the Ohio Ballot Board.

All of this year's state ballot issues propose to amend the Ohio Constitution. There are three ways to amend the Ohio Constitution: proposal by the General Assembly; proposal by the people through an initiative petition; by constitutional convention. In all cases, proposals submitted to the voters must be approved by a majority of those citizens voting on them to become a part of the state constitution.

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

Proposed Constitutional Amendment by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly
To enact new Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of Article XI and to repeal Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

A YES vote means approval of the constitutional amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the constitutional amendment.

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

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

League Explanation of Issue 1:

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

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

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

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

PRO:

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

CON:

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

STATE BALLOT ISSUES

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

(Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly)

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

A YES vote means approval of the constitutional amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the constitutional amendment.

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

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

League Explanation of Issue 2:

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

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

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

PRO:

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

CON:

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

STATE BALLOT ISSUES

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

(Proposed by Initiative Petition)

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

A YES vote means approval of the constitutional amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the constitutional amendment.

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

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

League Explanation of Issue 3:

Issue 3 has a two-fold objective: (1) to legalize marijuana for personal and medical use and (2) to establish rules for growth and sales.

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

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

PRO:

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

CON:

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

COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and, influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland has worked on these explantions of the county wide issues. Thank you all who contributed!

Issue 8: ARTS & CULTURE "SIN TAX"

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF EXCISE TAX ON CIGARETTES FOR CUYAHOGA ARTS AND CULTURE.

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall an excise tax on the sale of cigarettes at wholesale continue to be levied throughout Cuyahoga County for the benefit of Cuyahoga Arts and Culture for the purposes of making grants to support operating or capital expenses of arts or cultural organizations in Cuyahoga County, to defray the costs of acquiring, constructing, equipping, furnishing, improving, enlarging, renovating, remodeling or maintaining an artistic or cultural facility, and to meet operating expenses, at a rate of 15 mills per cigarette, which amounts to 1.5 cents per cigarette, for 10 years?

League Plainspeak: Should a tax on the sale of cigarettes in Cuyahoga County be renewed, so that it can continue supporting the work of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) over the next 10 years? The tax amounts to 1.5 cents per cigarette purchased. CAC awards grants to arts or cultural organizations, which use the money to help meet operating expenses or to help with the purchase, remodeling, equipping, or maintenance of their facilities.

PRO: Since its start-up in 2006, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) financial support has been an important factor in the improved economic development of a newly vibrant downtown. Playhouse Square has especially benefited from its support. CAC has also contributed to childhood enrichment and education through classes, workshops, fieldtrips, internships and fellowships to local artists. This tax is a renewal, not a new tax, and it is the only revenue stream in greater Cleveland for public support of the arts -- defeat of the ballot issue would immediately terminate all existing public support countywide. Vote YES.

CON: This and other "sin taxes" are disproportionately paid by the county's poorest residents, in order to support activities engaged in primarily by the county's wealthier arts patrons who could afford to support such activities privately. Also, CAC supports big, well established institutions like the Cleveland Museum of Art, where it could better give a boost to more under-the-radar enterprises and startups. An unintended consequence of reliance on the cigarette tax may even cause a setback in the community's effort to discourage cigarette smoking. Vote NO.

YES! I want to support the Voters Guide & the League of Women Voters - Shaker Heights Chapter by filling out and sending in the tear slip on bage 17

COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES

Issue 9 "COUNTY AUDIT COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING" PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CUYAHOGA COUNTY

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall Article XI, Section 11.01 of the Charter of the County of Cuyahoga be amended to ensure the independence of the county's auditing function by providing that the County Audit Committee consist of the President of Council or a member of Council appointed by the President of Council, four residents of the county with experience in the field of auditing, accounting, government operations, or financial reporting who are to be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by Council, with the County Executive and Fiscal Officer each serving as non-voting, ex officio members?

League Plainspeak: Should we amend the Cuyahoga County Charter to change the structure of the County Audit Committee, to make sure its auditing function is independent? The proposed structure would consist of five members: the County Council President or a Council member he/she selects, and four other county residents who have a background in auditing, accounting or other financial operations. Those four would be appointed by the County Executive but approved by the County Council. The County Executive and Fiscal Officer would serve on the Committee only as non-voting members.

PRO: By all accepted auditing standards, an Audit Committee must be independent of the Executive and Fiscal Office that are being audited. However, the amendment still allows those two non-voting officials to be fully aware of the Committee's work and findings, while one knowledgeable and voting Council Member provides a legislative balance. The four private sector members are required to have relevant qualifications to get through both the appointment and confirmation process. These compromises make the amendment acceptable to all sides and comply with accepted auditing standards. Vote YES.

CON: The County Charter's original intent was to give the County Executive and his appointed Fiscal Officer the chairmanship and two votes on the County Audit Committee of five, in order to help them better manage the large Executive bureaucracy efficiently and effectively. Under this amendment that purpose would be lost, since the role of those two most important fiscal officials is reduced to that of non-voting, exofficio Committee members. The County Executive needs to have significant weight on the Audit Committee, and therefore the structure of that body should remain as is. Vote NO.

THANKS go out to

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HELPFUL WEBSITES

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of GREATER CLEVELAND-

Shaker Heights Chapter www.shakerlwv.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of GREATER CLEVELAND-

www.lwvgreatercleveland.org 216-781-8375

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www.lwvohio.org 877-598-6446

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2925 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44115 www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us Voter Hotline: 216-443-8683

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

www.sos.state.oh.us myohiovote.com 877-767-6446

HELPFUL SITES FOR CANDIDATE AND VOTING INFO

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections

www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us or www.443vote.com 216-443-8683

Check your registration, what districts are you in, request Vote By Mail application, other information

MyOhioVote.com website to check and update voter registration, look up polling place, request Vote By Mail application

Websites to evaluate judicial candidates

www.judge4yourself.com for Cuyahoga County candidates - ratings of judicial candidates based on interviews with four local bar associations

www.judicialvotescount.org - a new website covering the state of Ohio

Political Parties

America First Party: 440-888-2663 or www.afpohio.com Constitution Party: 330-400-3444 or www.cpofohio.org Democratic Party: 216.621.9750 or www.cuydem.com

Green Party: www.ohiogreens.org

Libertarian Party: 888-371-2956 or www.lpo.org Reform Party: 419-368-6074 or www.reformparty.org

Republican Party: 216-621-5415 or www.cuyahogacountygop.com

Socialist Labor Party: 440-237-7933 or www.slp.org

WHO IS ELECTED WHEN IN OHIO

The Secretary of State puts out a Voter Information Guide every year with all this information. It is available free from the Secretary of State, any county Board of Elections, and libraries.

In every even-numbered year, Ohioans elect:

All members of the U.S. Congress (2-year term)

All members of the Ohio House of Representatives (2-year term)

Half of the members of the Ohio Senate (4-year term)

Some members of the State Board of Education (6-year term)

Two Justices of the Ohio Supreme Court (6-year term)

Some Court of Appeals Judges (6-year term)

Some Common Pleas Judges (6-year term)

Some County Judges (6-year term)

Some County Council members (4-year term)

In some even-numbered years, Ohioans elect:

United States Senator (6-year term)

Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (6-year term)

In even-numbered years divisible by four, Ohioans elect to 4-year terms:

United States President and Vice-President

Half of the Cuyahoga County Council

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor

In even-numbered years that are not divisible by four,

Ohioans elect to 4-year terms:

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Secretary of State

Attorney General

Auditor of State

State Treasurer

Cuyahoga County Executive

Half of the Cuyahoga County Council

In odd-numbered years, Ohioans elect:

Municipal officers

City and village mayors

Members of council

Other officers depending on municipal charters

Township trustees and clerk

Local Boards of education

Municipal court judges

YES! I want to support this 2015 Voters Guide & League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland • Shaker Heights Chapter by making a tax-deductible donation

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Mail this form and chec	k made out to LWVGC-EF (put Shaker Chapter on the memo) to
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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues.

The League of Women Voters does not endorse political candidates. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age.

Published as a Public Service by League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland Shaker Heights Chapter

www.shakerlwv.org

LWV-Shaker Heights Cabinet

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