# 2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

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**Democratic**

**Republican**

**Nonpartisan**

**Independant**

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**** The questions in this guide were provided by LGBTQIA+ young people who attend KYC. These questions were sent to candidates endorsed by their political party running in the City of Columbus and/or Franklin County. For some candidates, we could not easily attain their contact information, and therefore, they may not have had a chance to respond. Others may not have been able to answer by our due date of September 30, 2022. We have not edited any of these responses, aside from formatting for this guide. All spelling, grammar, and content is intentionally left as is from their original format. **This is not an endorsement for any candidate.****
We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
U.S. House Ohio District 3
Joyce Beatty is the incumbent for this position. She is running for re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives for Ohio’s 3rd Congressional District.

1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?
   
   • Joyce Beatty - As a nation we have made huge strides in the battle for full equality, but we have so much further to go. Progress can and must be made to ensure that all LGBTQIA+ Americans have the same rights as other Americans and can live their American dream to its full potential. I have been a proud sponsor of the Equality Act in Congress and a champion for LGBTQIA+ Americans.

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?
   
   • Joyce Beatty - I think the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community are the attacks on rights for all members of the community but specifically the attacks on rights for members of the trans community from bathroom bills to exclusionary bills in sports. We also must be vigilant for roll backs of existing rights including by the US Supreme Court.

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- Joyce Beatty: The biggest issues facing young people right now is social and emotional development as they return to schools for full time learning. I have supported additional funds for wrap around services for our students and families to cope in this new reality.

4. What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?

- Joyce Beatty: Congress must continue to be focused on creating an America where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. From supporting legislation regarding job creation to enshrining protections for LGBTQIA+ community members there is much we can do to support this Community.

5. What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?

- Joyce Beatty: I support access to abortion and reproductive justice.

6. What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?

- Joyce Beatty: I was a key supporter of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and have championed efforts to decrease instances of police brutality including stopping no knock warrants, create a database of police related incidents of violence and misconduct and require body cameras on federal police officers.

7. What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?

- Joyce Beatty: I think we can do more to better fund our public schools. Property taxes are inherently biased and relying on them for funding creates bias in our districts.

8. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Joyce Beatty** - If we decrease the reliance on property taxes we could increase funding and resources through wrap around and support dollars from state, county and federal entities.

9. Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?

- **Joyce Beatty** - Yes. Our students should have an environment where they can thrive and feel safe.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?

- **Joyce Beatty** - Social Justice is the inclusion of a diversity and inclusion lens to decision making. This is the lens through which I view all legislation and I believe the same should happen in our State government.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?

- **Joyce Beatty** - I support a living minimum wage. I think it is important that families have the resources they need to thrive.

12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

- **Joyce Beatty** - I do not support legalized recreational marijuana.

13. Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.

- **Joyce Beatty** - Ohio can improve gun control by expanding background checks, strengthening red flag laws and closing the boyfriend loophole.

14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.
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- **Joyce Beatty** - I will continue to support the Equality Act and other legislation to stop discrimination against members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

15. What is your stance on HB616?

- **Joyce Beatty** - HB616 is an attempt to hide from our history by labeling it CRT. Our children deserve to learn the full picture of our history and be exposed to the good and bad so that they do not repeat the bad.

16. What is your stance on HB454?

- **Joyce Beatty** - This is an unnecessary attack on transgender athletes that creates discriminatory practices in our athletic spaces.

17. What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?

- **Joyce Beatty** - I believe trans youth should be allowed to participate in sports and extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

**Governor of Ohio**

We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

**Lieutenant Governor of Ohio**

We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

- Jeff Crossman - Growing up, my siblings and I never realized that “being gay” was something people didn’t understand. I had an openly gay step-uncle who was in a loving relationship and a positive role model. Tragically, he contracted HIV and died from AIDS related complications but he served as an inspiration for us and certainly a basis for understanding the need for more empathy, understanding, and civil rights.

During my undergraduate years in college, I advocated on behalf of a fledgling LGBTQ organization seeking recognition on a small conservative college campus—we succeeded.

These experiences have I always informed me to be an ally and an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community any way I can, especially as an elected official.

As a State Legislator, I have co-sponsored and advocated for the Ohio Fairness Act. I also have vigorously opposed discriminatory legislation proposed by some legislators. These are among the reasons why I have been proud to be awarded an “A” grade by Equality Ohio—an organization which monitors State legislative activity specifically related to the LGBTQ+ community.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- Jeff Crossman - Discrimination continues to be a significant issue. We must protect LGBTQ+ rights when it comes to housing and employment for starters (which is why I supported expanding Ohio’s anti-discrimination provisions to include protections for the LGBTQ+ community). There is also a lack of representation in government which I believe partly explains the intolerant legislation continually proposed by extremist legislators.

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- Jeff Crossman - The clearest attack on not just young people but all Americans right now is the attack on abortion rights and reproductive freedom. This battle affects all of us - regardless of gender, sexuality, or gender identity - and it will take a concerted effort to fight back against dangerous abortion bans and policies. As Attorney General, there is a wide array of policies I can pursue to in order to protect reproductive rights, including: honoring local prosecutors’ decisions against prosecuting Ohioans seeking or obtaining abortions, protecting the privacy of patients, providing accurate information for Ohioans on their legal rights related to reproductive care, supporting the use of the state victim's fund to reimburse persons rape victims who are forced to travel to secure abortions, and supporting the effort to getting the issue of abortion on the ballot, including a swift review of the ballot language which the AG's office must approve before the ballot issue may proceed. This effort is particularly crucial and poignant to the AG’s race as the...
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current AG was the man who ran to the court to implement Ohio’s six week abortion ban mere hours after Roe v. Wade was overturned, and one week later went on Fox News and cast doubt on the existence of a ten year old rape victim.

4. **What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?**

   - **Jeff Crossman** - Our current AG has attacked the LGBTQIA+ community by joining other Republican Attorneys General around the country in filing pro-discrimination lawsuits attempting to invalidate or limit the Bostock decision (holding that Title IX protections extend to the LGBTQIA+ community). The lawsuit seeking to invalidate anti-discrimination guidance in the USDA reduced school lunch program is among these discriminatory lawsuits our current AG has filed. As the next AG, I would immediately abandon these lawsuits and prioritize using the AG’s Civil Rights office to defend the LGBTQIA+ community.

5. **What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?**

   - **Jeff Crossman** - As outlined above, I am a staunch pro-choice candidate. The AG’s office will have a significant role to play in the fight for reproductive rights and abortion access in Ohio. The AG would approve ballot language for a ballot referendum to codify abortion care. In addition, the AG could fight to defend peoples civil rights, potentially including in the case of abortion care.

6. **What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?**

   - **Jeff Crossman** - Over the past several years, I have been distressed by the division in our country over these issues. Instead of leading, too many elected officials utilize these
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issues as opportunities to create further divisions. The Attorney General can play a vital role in bridging the divide and bringing groups together to engage in meaningful dialogue on the issues of police violence. This involves not just the police and the communities but also the other community leaders that develop the policies that often lead to violence. As a former City Councilman, I have been successful engaging community members with our law enforcement personnel. Each year, we held successful town hall meetings with first responders speaking and meeting with residents directly. Our city has also held popular annual “safety fairs” in our community that attract broad support and are very well attended. This has helped our efforts in the community tremendously and built support for the safety levies we have successfully championed to deliver resources needed for safe communities. As Attorney General, I believe that similar efforts could be fruitful statewide and especially in communities that have previously held adversarial relationships with law enforcement. We need to build more bridges and stop with harmful and negative rhetoric that only serves to divide everyone. We can and should dedicate additional efforts attracting more people of color into law enforcement and work with law enforcement on best practices on training and community engagement. Working together we can find solutions on moving forward to improve relations.

7. What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?

- **Jeff Crossman** - Ohio deserves strong public schools which are properly funded. Unfortunately, the state has failed at providing the necessary funding, but in 2021, the legislature finally passed a “fair funding formula,” which I supported. We now need to insist that the Republican majority actually fund the plan.
8. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?

- **Jeff Crossman** - The school funding formula passed in 2021 was a significantly improved framework and received broad support by communities, teachers unions, school officials, Democrats and Republicans. It ensured that districts with less capacity to support their schools through local tax revenue would receive a higher percentage of the state education funds to ensure an equal balance across the state. In addition, the formula included added on grants/funding for: students with disabilities, increased transportation costs, economically disadvantaged areas, gifted education, and an additional 1 billion dollars for low-wealth districts. However, the problem is that - even though this formula passed with bipartisan support - Republicans are now refusing to spend the money and implement this formula. We need to make sure our state government funds this formula as soon as possible, and as Attorney General I will hold folks accountable to this goal.

9. Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?

- **Jeff Crossman** - Yes. We should make sure everyone feels comfortable being themselves - regardless of gender, sexuality, or gender identity - in public spaces. This is an easy and unobtrusive way to do so.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?

- **Jeff Crossman** - Social justice means taking a look at the root of societal problems and attempting to solve them through an all encompassing approach, rather than just put forth “band aid” solutions to try to solve things in the moment. We must protect vulnerable
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communities who become marginalized due to the lack of investment in jobs, infrastructure and quality public schools. This includes prioritizing and funding mental health services, stopping the criminalization of drug addiction and instead providing paths to treatment and recovery, investing in neighborhood infrastructure, accessible public transportation, job preparation, and fighting discrimination in the job and housing markets, as well as working to improve education to prevent bigotry, racism and homophobia.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?

- **Jeff Crossman** - Absolutely. The minimum wage needs to be a livable wage. I grew up watching my mother struggle to make enough to support myself and my two siblings. I understand firsthand the importance of a livable wage. I will always stand on the side of workers - this is why I am endorsed by the AFL-CIO and dozens of other local and statewide unions.

12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

- **Jeff Crossman** - I support legalization especially through a ballot referendum. If marijuana is decriminalized, then I would also support commutation of existing sentences along with automatic expungement for sentences already resolved. This would help clean up criminal records and give second chances to allow people the opportunity to improve their lives without the stain of a criminal charge on their record.

13. Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.

- **Jeff Crossman** - Ohio gun laws are too permissive and Ohio has completely abandoned any concept of encouraging safety along with responsible gun ownership. It’s among the
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reasons why Ohio’s gun violence rate is higher than the national average. As a state legislator, I have co-sponsored gun safety initiatives and opposed dangerous state policies like the permitless carry and “Shoot First” bills (aka Stand Your Ground). As Attorney General, I would utilize Ohio’s Consumer Protection statutes to hold gun dealers and manufacturers accountable and to ensure that safety is as a significant concern as the sale of firearms. Ohio’s AG could go after the gun lobby through legal means like other states have begun doing, but this will never happen under our current leadership.

14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

- **Jeff Crossman** - The AG’s office can play a crucial role in the defense of LGBTQIA+ rights in our state. As AG, I would directly oversee an office of Civil Rights which has not done nearly enough under current leadership to seek justice and equality in our state. With this unique role, I can use the law to protect equal opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination in employment, places of public accommodations, housing, credit and institutions of higher education. On my first day in office, I would end the current AG’s pro-discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to allow discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community despite the Supreme Court deeming this illegal under Title IX.

15. What is your stance on HB616?

- **Jeff Crossman** - This bill is an embarrassment to our state. We need to embrace our history and make sure our students are learning the good, the bad, and the ugly so that we can ensure our students are properly equipped to be the current and future leaders we so
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desperately need them to be. HB 616 would water down our education system and prevent us from properly preparing children for the world they will enter.

16. What is your stance on HB454?

- **Jeff Crossman** - This bill is an extreme and dangerous attack on our LGBTQIA+ youth as they attempt to navigate their own gender identity. As Ohio’s next Attorney General, I would investigate whether this bill violates any civil rights, should it become law. If it does, I could work with local prosecutors to try and repeal it.

17. What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?

- **Jeff Crossman** - I opposed the discriminatory legislation proposed by Republican legislators. I view these measures as ignorant and intolerant. I believe these issues are used to separate and scapegoat transgender youth which should be encouraged to participate in all community activities, especially sports. Every child deserves the right to participate in extracurricular activities and sports.
1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - I believe that LGBTQIA+ rights are equal to those of any persons right. What choice someone makes in respects to partnership and or who they love is none of anyone’s business but their own.

I support EVERYONE to love and formulate decisions in their personal life at their will. The government should never make any laws to force anyone to think, act or do anything against their will and that includes who you love. It’s 2022 and diversity is what makes the USA an amazing place to live.

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - The fact that the child grooming and pro-pedophile movement are working to effectively destroy the LGBTQIA+ community and the decades of progress made within the movement by their association, co-opting and appeal for inclusion within the LGBTQIA+ community.

I believe that a campaign of awareness needs to be brought to the community and the world to prevent being a pedophile and being a part of the LGBTQIA+ community from becoming synonymous with one another. LGBTQIA+ does not = pedophile.
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3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - Freedom of choice. Since 2020 we have seen a minimization of choice, freedom, and sequestering speech. We have directives and “nanny” systems in place telling us how to think, act and feel. We need to end the “thought police” manifesting from this era of tribalism.

4. What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - I will ensure that businesses cannot ask questions for people to identify their sex or sexual preferences, excepting where it directly applies and is completely necessary to the situation- i.e., biologically pertinent questions regarding pregnancy benefits and other circumstances to that nature. Otherwise, that should be none of their business and it’s unconstitutional. Who you sleep with, or love does not affect your work productivity or efficiency.

5. What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - Reproductive rights were an issue in China. In China they would disallow more than one or two children being born. Everyone should have the right to reproduce - after all that is the biological and scientific purpose for reproductive organs - reproduction for the purpose of the human race surviving.

I am AGAINST abortion. I believe if bacteria on Mars is considered life, so should a heartbeat of a fetus. I am also AGAINST capital punishment. I feel that no human has the right to take the life of another human. As someone who has a degree in cellular and
molecular biology and is PROFICIENT in SCNT for cloning - I can assure you, life begins at conception. I have seen it with my own eyes. It is okay for us to disagree but my position in office does not have ANY say to IMPOSE my beliefs on anyone. I am strongly against that. I, myself was told to have an abortion when I was pregnant at the age of 21. I consider it murder. I did not and I am grateful for every hardship and struggle raising my daughter to be an amazing and loving human.

6. What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?

- Terpsehore Maras - Higher standards. I live in downtown Cleveland. The issues we have is HIGH TURNOVER and lack of proper training. Most police brutality is conducted by “rookies” - and CLEVELAND police are like a revolving door due to lack of standards, training, and attractiveness salary wise. We need to have higher standards for those that we allow to wear the uniform.

7. What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?

- Terpsehore Maras - We need to remove CORPORATIONS from schools, public offices, and politics. We need to remove the corporate element and invest more in the local community demographic needs. There is no cookie cutter education system as long as there are such wide gaps spanning across our socioeconomic demographics in Ohio.

8. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?

- Terpsehore Maras - Increase state and federal funding by surveying - actual surveys of the targeted demographic needs. We need to be spending our tax dollars wisely and increasing our state investments in the school districts that need it the most.
9. Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - For children? No. Children have a hard enough time learning to tie their shoes and deal with peer pressure and indirect systemic socioeconomic issues. It also increases promiscuity among younger ages, and I believe that is an added stressor to the already difficult task of learning, growing, and trying to find themselves.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - Social Justice - something OHIO lacks on all fronts. We are governed by two political systems that try to fit all of us into nice tiny boxes and forcing us to comply with what they believe is right. Social Justice is when no one forces you to act, think, talk, eat, and look THEIR way. They have created an era of tribalism which is highly concerning for all people.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - I support fair wages. High work = high wages. In the upcoming months we are faced with a very existential threat and that threat is PROGRAMMABLE currency. Our wages are being threatened to be dictated. For example. You work 40 hours a week and make $500.00. Minimum wage in effect or not your $500 will be allocated according to the STRUCTURED political corporate backed companies that will say $200 are housing credits $200 is food, $50 for educational and $50 for luxuries. Think about it - we won’t even be able to control how we spend our money - it will be a WIC system for all facets of our life.
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That is the biggest problem. We face now in wages, and no one is talking about it. If I am elected at Secretary of State, I will NOT allow that to be implemented in the State of Ohio.

12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

- Terpsehore Maras - I fully support recreational marijuana; it’s not lethal like alcohol and has numerous uses in health and remedies that are natural.

13. Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.

- Terpsehore Maras - Firstly, as a gun owner myself I believe federal checks in place are perfect though can be racially discriminatory. I have an example of a friend who had a very “DHS alerting” name who was flagged simply for having an ethnic name. I am strong on state funded weapons education. Understanding the impact, the use and the outcomes of weapons is important. We get licenses to drive we should be licensed to carry a weapon, use a weapon, and store weapons responsibly.

14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

- Terpsehore Maras - I will ensure that businesses cannot ask questions for people to identify their personal sex or sexual preferences. That should be none of their business and it’s unconstitutional. Who you sleep with, or love does not affect your work productivity or efficiency.

15. What is your stance on HB616?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Terpsehore Maras** - I oppose any SEXUAL EDUCATION for children. It’s their growth, their life, and their experience and that is something they should naturally learn on their own.

16. What is your stance on HB454?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - I stand FIRM against any legislation that dilutes our inalienable rights given to us through the US Constitution. Every time a law is passed that explicitly states what rights we have narrows the broad array of rights afforded to us by the 9th and 10th Amendment. Less government more people is my position as a person. The right to medical care is already afforded to us; why make it narrower? Less is more.

17. What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?

- **Terpsehore Maras** - I believe that biological females competing with biological males is not fair.

  There should be teams that have trans youth to level the playing field.

  Biological differences are evident and scientific fact.
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**Ohio Treasurer**

We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
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**Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice**

Jennifer L. Brunner is the incumbent for this position. She is running for re-election as the Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice.

1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

- Jennifer L. Brunner: I support the belief and understanding that courts are only as effective as people believe them to be. Good judges and fair courts can make all the difference in the confidence Ohioans have in their judiciary. And that confidence makes our courts more effective.

I served on the board of The Legacy Fund of The Columbus Foundation for 9 years and 3 years as its first ally chair. We instituted board intersectionality bias training, including on race, age and transgender issues and worked to bring to the board new, younger members.

I resigned from the board to take my current position as Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court in January 2021.

The Ohio Supreme Court recently created the position for and hired a DEI officer whom we recruited from Case Western University. I would support her in this work and continue Chief Justice O’Connor’s practices of making a conscious effort to hire a diverse staff and to encourage the same among the courts of this state.
2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- Jennifer L. Brunner - As a Justice, it is my responsibility to ensure that all people—regardless of their race, religion, nationality, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity—have equal access to the law and to the judiciary. I will also ensure that all people are afforded equal respect, dignity, and courteousness in their dealings with and in our court.

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- Jennifer L. Brunner - It is important to build safe environments for all youth. LGBTQIA youth are at increased risk of being bullied, experiencing homeless and poverty, and committing suicide.

4. What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?

- Jennifer L. Brunner - I am running for Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court because justice matters for every Ohioan. Steady and principled leadership of the state’s highest court is essential to helping Ohioans realize justice in their everyday lives. The state’s constitution is the voice of its people. The Ohio Supreme Court is the constitution’s caretaker, a guardian to ensure people and their rights are protected.

As a current Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court I participate in deciding which cases the court reviews and in helping set the course for the rule of law in our state. Not all cases
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are accepted by the state’s highest court. This is because the constitution requires us to
determine the law for matters of great and general public interest.

Ohio is a very diverse state with deep rural roots, storied urban communities and
countless small and middle sized towns and cities. I take seriously my responsibility as
one of seven people elected to do justice for all the people of Ohio. I am grateful for what
I’ve learned from Ohioans in my many years of service to them, working at three levels
of the state’s courts and as Ohio’s first female secretary of state.

Why Chief Justice? Administrative and policy leadership of the court is not about an
ideology of who should win and who should lose. It is about a belief and understanding
that courts are only as effective as people believe them to be. Good judges and fair courts
can make all the difference in the confidence Ohioans have in their judiciary. And that
confidence makes our courts more effective.

I know that courts can do good things for people—protect their health, safety and
welfare— with fairness, equality and respect. And I am committed to doing this every
day now and as Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. I am further committed to
using the power of the court to help lift the vision of all judges of the state to why we
serve and the power we have to do good for all Ohioans.

5. What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?

- Jennifer L. Brunner - The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a
  substantive response to this question.
6. What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?
   - Jennifer L. Brunner - The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

7. What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?
   - Jennifer L. Brunner - The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

8. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?
   - Jennifer L. Brunner - The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

9. Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?
   - Jennifer L. Brunner - The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?
    - Jennifer L. Brunner - Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal treatment and opportunity within a society’s legal, economic, political, and social sphere. In a socially just Ohio, diversity would be viewed as an asset—a source of interest, discussion, and celebration; there would be confidence in our legal system and our representative democracy; and our economic success would be measured by how well our least fortunate are coping.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

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12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

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- Jennifer L. Brunner - The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.
1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

- **Terri Jamison** - First and foremost, I am committed to preserving and strengthening the Ohio Supreme Court’s status as an independent, co-equal branch of state government that serves as an effective check on the governor, other Constitutional officers, and the General Assembly.

   As a judicial candidate, I cannot give an opinion on things that may come up in court due to Rule 4.1 and 4.2 of the judicial canons. Though subject to public election, a judge plays a role different from that of a legislator or executive branch official.

   During the pandemic, I spearheaded drives to collect toiletries and cleaning supplies for the center.

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Terri Jamison** - Rather than making decisions based upon the expressed views or preferences of the electorate, a judge makes decisions based upon the law and the facts of each case. Therefore, in furtherance of this interest, judges and judicial candidates must, to the greatest extent possible, be free and appear to be free from political influence and political pressure. I believe in equal justice under the law and will make rulings based on the law.

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Terri Jamison** - Education, homelessness, and lack of adequate job skills to enter the market. I use my position as a judge to educate the public about the issues that face youth. I have used information that I gathered as a juvenile judge to speak about these
issues and shared a vision for housing for homeless youth. I’ve financially supported housing initiatives in the community. I know that education is critical to the success of our youth. I’ve given school supplies to those who are in need of school supplies. I started the Compass program in juvenile court. The program placed unemployed men and women into jobs or job training that led to employment so that they could support their children. Stable parents can assist in their children’s success.

4. What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?

- **Terri Jamison** - I have always mentored high school and college students by taking them as interns for a semester or during the summer. When elected to the Ohio Supreme Court, I can use that position to begin a true mentoring program for high school students that can be duplicated throughout the state.

5. What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues. Endorsement from Planned Parenthood, #Vote Pro Choice, and recommendation from Pro Choice Ohio of my candidacy sends a clear signal to voters who care deeply about reproductive freedom and the right to obtain an abortion that I am worthy of their support.

6. What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?

- **Terri Jamison** - Cultural sensitivity and implicit bias training should be incorporated into all levels of law enforcement and the courts. This training should be ongoing and not a one-time, check the box, thought process. It is critical that we become acquainted with all races, ethnicities, sexual orientation, and debunk the current thought that we all respond the same way. How you are raised, trauma you’ve faced, and your cultural upbringing can impact decision making and how you interact with law enforcement. This additional training can help to debunk myths and perceptions that officers have about specific classes of citizens they encounter. More deescalation tactics training should be implemented.

7. What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Terri Jamison** - I know the current funding structure has been found to be unconstitutional. Education has been impacted by the current funding structure and continues to be impacted.

8. **What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?**

- **Terri Jamison** - The legislature is tasked with correcting the funding structure and providing all students in Ohio public schools with adequate funding for their education.

9. **Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?**

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues.

10. **How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?**

- **Terri Jamison** - Social justice refers to a fair and equitable division of resources, opportunities, and privileges in society. In Ohio, it would look like proper funding of education to prepare individuals to continue their education, equal access to college education, equal access to opportunities to intern with large corporations and/or law firms, equal opportunity to live in neighborhoods where you are safe, equal treatment under the law and safe housing.

11. **Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?**

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues. I have worked to ensure that men and women who are unemployed or underemployed have knowledge of additional training and opportunities to better position themselves in the job market and earn sufficient wages.

12. **What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?**

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues.

13. **Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.**
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Terri Jamison** - Universal background checks, ensuring that all guns that are seized by law enforcement are destroyed, requiring a waiting period for weapons sold at gun shows, and requiring training on responsible gun ownership.

14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues. Judges do not advocate on issues but I pledge to treat everyone that comes before me with dignity and respect. As a minority, I have felt marginalized even in my current position as a judge. I will rule fairly and solely on the law and give you an opportunity to be heard.

15. What is your stance on HB616?

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues. The Court is called upon to determine the constitutionality of bills. It would be improper to speak on this bill.

16. What is your stance on HB454?

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues. The Court is called upon to determine the constitutionality of bills. It would be improper to speak on this bill.

17. What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?

- **Terri Jamison** - The Code of Conduct prohibits me from speaking about specific issues. The Court is called upon to determine if the policies and/or prohibitions within the rules are constitutional. It would be improper to speak on this issue as there are a number of cases on this issue.
We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

**Ohio House of Representatives District 1**

We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals

Carly Edelstein is running for the position of judge in the Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals.

1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

- **Carly Edelstein** - All people, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community, should have the freedom and safety to live as their authentic selves and have an equal chance at opportunity and justice. My career of service as a teacher, a judicial law clerk, a civil rights attorney, and a public defender has been dedicated to breaking down barriers that stand in the way of achieving these fundamental ideals.

Specifically, with respect to my work in support of the LGBTQIA+ community, I have done the following:

- Worked as Legal Services Manager at Equitas Health. I created and developed a legal services department to assist members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people living with AIDS/HIV. I represented clients on matters involving Social Security Disability, employment discrimination, and housing. I also managed a statewide name and gender change clinic to support transgender and nonbinary adults and children throughout Ohio. After leaving Equitas Health to begin my current job, I continued to volunteer with the name and gender change clinic for a number of years.

- Served as the chair of the LGBT Bar Committee at the Columbus Bar Association. In that role, I developed educational and social programming to support the LGBTQIA+ lawyer community in Columbus.

- Worked as a staff attorney at the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. There, I investigated complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of race, sex, and disability.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- I frequently speak and write about issues impacting LGBTQIA+ rights, in the hope that public education might improve access to opportunity and curb the discrimination and harassment experienced by so many members of the community. These speaking engagements include:
  o Sitting on a panel called *Gender and the Law*, hosted by the Women Lawyers of Franklin County.
  o Presenting to the Columbus Bar Association’s LGBT and Family Law Committees on the United States Supreme Court case *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, which addressed discrimination against same-sex couples who wish to foster parent.
  o Speaking at the Equitas Health Transforming Care Conference on *Lawsuits and the Fight for Transgender Rights* and the TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium on *Rowing Against the Tide: An Overview of the Legal and Political Landscape for TGNC Americans*.
  o Providing a number of trainings throughout the state on the nuts and bolts of the name and gender change processes.
  o Writing articles for *CBA Legal Connections* and *Columbus Bar Lawyers Quarterly* about landmark civil rights cases impacting the LGBTQIA+ community.

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Carly Edelstein** - Discrimination and harassment, freedom to live authentically.

  If elected to serve as a judge on the 10th District Court of Appeals, I would not be in a position to address these issues through policy advocacy or legislation. However, as a judge, I would strive to ensure illegal discrimination and harassment are remedied by the court system and all parties are treated with dignity and respect. That is, after all, the role of a judge – protect rights, honor precedent, and ensure everyone who comes before the court is treated with humanity.
Outside of my role as judge, I would continue to support and volunteer for the organizations that advocate for the interests of the LGBTQIA+ community.

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- Carly Edelstein - Access to quality education, the school-to-prison pipeline, safety in schools.

If elected to serve on the 10th District Court of Appeals, I would not be in a position to address these issues through policy advocacy or legislation. However, as a judge, I would strive to render considered, thoughtful, informed decisions when these and other issues come before the court.

Outside of my role as judge, I would continue to support and volunteer for organizations that fight for children, just as I have done throughout my career. For example, as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, I investigated complaints of race, sex, and disability discrimination so kids could be kids and focus on learning. As the Legal Services Manager at Equitas Health, I helped transgender and nonbinary children legally change their name and gender marker so they could live authentically and avoid some of the trauma that comes from misgendering and dead-naming.

4. What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- Carly Edelstein - As an appellate judge, my role would be to protect the rights of all people who are involved in the legal system and ensure equal access to justice. I believe judges are elected by the people to safeguard our institutions, protect rights, honor precedent, and make sure everyone feels welcome, safe, and respected when they walk through the courthouse doors. As a judge, I would do the hard and thoughtful work necessary to render considered opinions, so that even if a party is unhappy with a result, they will walk away from the experience feeling that their voice was heard and they were given a fair shake.

5. What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?

- Carly Edelstein - I must refrain from sharing my personal views on abortion, reproductive rights, and the U.S. Supreme Court’s Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health decision as these issues may come before the court for review.

6. What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?

- Carly Edelstein - As described above, I must refrain from taking a position on the issue of police brutality as it may come before the court for review.

7. What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?

- Carly Edelstein - Although I must refrain from taking a personal position on this issue, I can say that the Ohio Supreme Court has previously held that the current funding structure is unconstitutional. If elected, I would be bound by the precedent of the Supreme Court and would apply that precedent to each individual case that comes before me.
8. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?

- **Carly Edelstein** - As described above, the Ohio Supreme Court has already ruled that the current scheme is unconstitutional. It is therefore in the hands of the legislature to design a constitutional funding scheme, which could come before the courts for review.

9. Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?

- **Carly Edelstein** - While the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that Title VII’s prohibition on sex discrimination includes a prohibition on sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, the high court has not yet ruled on the specific issue of gender-inclusive bathrooms and other affirming spaces in public schools. Therefore, as described above, I may not share my personal views on this question as a legal challenge to a school policy could come before me if elected to the bench.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?

- **Carly Edelstein** - Social justice means equal access to opportunity for all people, regardless of their means, identity, or background. In my experience as a public defender, civil rights attorney, and teacher, I have too often seen pervasive inequality and bias in our systems. Social justice in Ohio would include embracing diversity and remedying some of the inequalities and injustices of our past. Social justice in Ohio’s legal system could include a reduction in the pervasive bias that infects all stages of a criminal case, identifying alternatives to incarceration that balance the safety of victims and the greater
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

community with the humanity and rehabilitation of a criminal defendant, and eliminating some of the barriers to successful reentry into society after incarceration.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?

- Carly Edelstein - I cannot share my personal position on a living minimum wage as that issue could come before the court for review. I can say, however, that throughout my career as a teacher, civil rights attorney and public defender, I have remained committed to ensuring all people can live with dignity and are treated fairly in our systems. I started my career as a teacher in Los Angeles. As an idealistic middle school teacher, I experienced first-hand the country’s broken education system. My classroom leaked and had no windows, most of my students qualified for free or reduced-cost lunch, students did not have access to an extensive library, and teachers were asked to leave immediately after classes ended due to safety issues in the community. As a classroom teacher, I wanted to do more. So, I went to law school, because lawyers have a lot of power, and I wanted to leverage all of that power to create change and improve opportunities for my students and kids like them.

12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

- Carly Edelstein - I cannot share my personal position on legalizing recreational marijuana as that issue could come before the court for review.

13. Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.

- Carly Edelstein - The U.S. Supreme Court has held generally that certain gun control measures may be constitutionally permissible, but each case must be adjudicated on its
own facts. I am not able to answer this question substantively as a case challenging gun control measures could come before the court for review.

14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

- **Carly Edelstein** - As described above, if I am fortunate enough to serve on the 10th District Court of Appeals, I will strive to ensure equal access to justice for everyone who comes before the court, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community. I will work to make sure everyone feels welcome, safe, and respected when they walk through the courthouse doors.

  Beyond my work as a judge, I will continue to volunteer with and support organizations that protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

15. What is your stance on HB616?

- **Carly Edelstein** - Unfortunately, I am also unable to share my personal views on HB616 because a challenge to the legislation could come before the court for review.

16. What is your stance on HB454?

- **Carly Edelstein** - Unfortunately, I am also unable to share my personal views on HB454 because a challenge to the legislation could come before the court for review. However, I can say that at Equitas Health, I worked closely with medical providers who provided gender-affirming healthcare to minors and adults, including the Thrive program at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.
17. **What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?**

- **Carly Edelstein** - Unfortunately, I am also unable to share my personal views on transgender and nonbinary youth participating in sports aligned with their gender identity. As explained above, the U.S. Supreme Court held in Bostock v. Clayton County that Title VII’s prohibition on sex discrimination necessarily includes a prohibition on gender identity and sexual orientation discrimination. However, the majority opinion in that case explicitly reserved the issue of access to extracurricular activities aligned with one’s gender identity for another day. Therefore, this issue could come before Ohio’s courts for review in the near future.
1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

- **Michael Stinziano** - I have consistently advocated for expanding and protecting the rights of LGBTIA+ people. For example, I supported the Ohio Fairness Act when I served as State Representative in the Ohio General Assembly and supported the ban on conversion therapy when I served on Columbus City Council. After being elected Franklin County Auditor I quickly worked to eliminate fees for name changes on county documents processed by our office because of the fees’ disproportionate impact on women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Michael Stinziano** - There are coordinated attacks happening right now against our LGBTQIA+ community in local and state governments across the country and here in Ohio. As your Franklin County Auditor, our office strives to be a resource available to residents to ensure that our office policies, particularly involving property evaluations, do not discriminate against LGBTQIA+ individuals.

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Michael Stinziano** - The biggest issues facing our young people right now are addressing the social and emotional learning they lost during the pandemic and ensuring they have the necessary resources in the classroom and wrap-around services to succeed. My office has consistently returned millions of dollars in real estate fees that are processed through our office to local school districts to support these efforts.

4. **What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?**

- **Michael Stinziano** - As the Franklin County Auditor, our office has the opportunity to make homeownership attainable for our residents. We have been working and will continue to work to make homeownership in Franklin County more equitable. We want to eliminate any discriminatory practice that may bar people in the LGBTQIA+ community from attaining that goal.

5. **What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?**

- **Michael Stinziano** - Medical decisions should be between a patient and their doctor. Government should not interfere or deny people the reproductive healthcare they need.

6. **What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?**

- **Michael Stinziano** - Addressing internal issues within our police departments, like the need for better training, will help eliminate instances of police brutality. We also should encourage building better relationships between our officers and the communities they serve.

7. **What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?**
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Michael Stinziano** - Our public schools need real investment. Ohio’s current method of relying on property taxes leaves some of our students behind. While serving as State Representative I advocated for additional dollars to better fund public education in Ohio and continue to do so today.

8. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?

- **Michael Stinziano** - We need more buy-in from government to reduce the disparities that exist between our communities. The first step to this is acknowledging the impact these disparities have created. That is why my office partnered with the Kirwin Institute to do a comprehensive review of the impact of redlining on property taxes so that we can utilize that information in our next valuation.

9. Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?

- **Michael Stinziano** - Yes, we should have gender-inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in our public schools for students. School is a place where our students spend most of their time and they need to feel safe there.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?

- **Michael Stinziano** - Social justice is advocating for equitable solutions to address the disparities in our communities. In Ohio, social justice means closing the gaps that our communities, especially our rural and urban communities, face. Real investment in our schools, more transparency in the resources our government office provides, and
eliminating discriminatory practices that affect the everyday lives of our constituents are some of the ways we can begin to address the issues that exist in our state.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?

• Michael Stinziano - Ohioans need a living minimum wage. As the last 2 years have shown, our frontline workers have kept our communities afloat. Paying a living wage uplifts our entire community, ensuring that our residents can afford necessities such as housing and food. Having a living minimum wage is a key element to a more productive workplace. In addition, I support unionization and signed the first contract with a bargaining unit in my office.

12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

• Michael Stinziano - I support the legalization of recreational marijuana.

13. Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.

• Michael Stinziano - Eliminating permitless carry in Ohio is key to ensuring that we are putting firearms in responsible hands. We should also enact red flag laws to prevent violent offenders from legally possessing firearms. Finally, we should repeal the law that allows our teachers to be armed in schools. These are common sense measures that will make us all safer.

14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

• Michael Stinziano - I strive to have the Auditor’s office serve as an example of how to eliminate discrimination in public offices. From repealing unnecessary discriminatory
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

fees to examining and attempting to correct the impact of redlining on our communities, I will continue to work to enact policies that advance and protect the rights of LGBTIA+ community members.

15. What is your stance on HB616?

- Michael Stinziano - HB 616 is an effort by right-wing legislators to scare parents and censor how our students learn about American history. The subjects that are called out in the bill, like ‘Critical Race Theory,’ have never been taught in any K-12 school in Ohio. HB 616 lays the groundwork to water down how our students learn history, leaving them worse off in understanding our world today.

16. What is your stance on HB454?

- Michael Stinziano - HB 454 directly interferes with medical care for our LGBTQIA+ youth. This bill is simply an attack on our youth and allows the government to interfere with medical decisions that should be between a patient and their doctor.

17. What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?

- Michael Stinziano - Trans/non-binary students want to simply exist as who they are and to play the sports they love. I believe we should stop playing politics with our students and allow them to participate in extracurricular activities as the gender they identify as.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

Franklin County Commissioner

Erica Crawley is running for the position of Franklin County Commissioner.

1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

   ● Erica Crawley - I am an advocate for our LGBTIA+ community and expanding their rights and protections. As a state legislator, I consistently called out remarks by my colleagues that were harmful to our LGBTQIA+ community and their efforts to turn back the clock on the progress we’ve made. I opposed efforts in the Ohio House to make it harder for LGBTQIA+ couples to adopt children and continue to speak out against regressive policies today. This past year our office has invested nearly $3.5 million in grants to community organizations that support marginalized communities within Franklin County, including investments in some LGBTQIA+ organizations.

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

   ● Erica Crawley - Our LGBTQIA+ community is under attack across the nation, and there are politicians in power who are attempting to make Ohio the leader of regressive policies. As a Franklin County Commissioner, our investments in LGBTQIA+ community partner organizations is how we ensure that those closest to the issues and with the most understanding of how to provide help have what they need to execute on their community needs successfully.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Erica Crawley** - The young people in Franklin county need the resources and community support to see a brighter future. As the Franklin County Commissioner, our office has made a $23 million investment into expanding early childcare through our Franklin County RISE program. We also initiated the Urban Roots program, which takes a cohort of rising eighth graders from the urban core of Franklin County with experience for hands-on and immersive learning opportunities on food, agriculture, environment, and related technologies.

4. What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?

- **Erica Crawley** - This year, we provided funding to 21 organizations, including the Kaleidoscope Youth Center. We are always looking for more community partners to work with and expand recipients of our Community Partnership Grants program to better assist our most vulnerable populations in the county.

5. What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?

- **Erica Crawley** - Let me clear: politicians have no business in our medical decisions. The abortion bans we are seeing across the country and that are coming from extremist politicians in our state government are not protecting anyone and are instead detrimental to our birthing outcomes.

6. What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Erica Crawley** - There needs to be more community input in the operations of our officers. For example, the body camera policy that was implemented through the Board of Commissioners originated from community input requesting more transparency from our officers. Working more to find solutions from the communities our officers serve would foster better law enforcement and community relations, building trust in our officers from our residents.

7. **What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?**

- **Erica Crawley** - Ohio’s public schools are being paid a large disservice. Currently, our public schools rely on property taxes for funding, which creates large disparities for students in lower-income communities.

8. **What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?**

- **Erica Crawley** - Our leaders need to think creatively on how to better serve our students in lower-income communities. Through our Franklin County RISE program, we have made key investments in early childhood education. As I continue to serve as a Franklin County Commissioner, I plan to continue to seek ways for additional funding opportunities to expand our children’s education opportunities.

9. **Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?**

- **Erica Crawley** - Yes, I absolutely believe we should have gender-inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in our public schools for students. School and our children do not need to be a political tool, but a place where our students feel safe to be who they are. They
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

spend the majority of their day at school and it is our community duty to ensure that their school environment is as comfortable as possible.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?

- Erica Crawley: To me, social justice advocates for equitable solutions to address and fix the gaps that exist in our communities. In Ohio, closing the gaps in our urban and rural communities is social justice. These communities face a lack of investment in public education, public services, and resources to elevate working families. When we work with our most vulnerable populations in mind, this is how we practice social justice.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?

- Erica Crawley: We need a living wage in Ohio and across the country. The pandemic showed that our frontline workers, often times our lowest wage earners, are who kept our communities afloat over the last few years. A living wage means a better quality of life for our entire community and affords our residents the ability to pay their bills, put food on the table, afford housing, and have a better shot at upward financial mobilization.

12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

- Erica Crawley: I support the legalization of recreational marijuana.

13. Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.

- Erica Crawley: Permitless carry should have never become law in Ohio. Permitless carry enables bad actors more access to deadly weapons. Eliminating permitless carry in Ohio is a common-sense solution to ensure firearms are in responsible hands. Another common sense solution would be to have red flag laws to keep guns out of the hands of people who are violent offenders. Additionally, HB 99 puts our students, classrooms, and
communities at large in danger. Our teachers do not need to have firearms in their classrooms, they need more funding. We should repeal HB 99 and actually give our schools the resources they need.

14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

- **Erica Crawley** - As a Franklin County Commissioner, I will always be an advocate for our LGBTQIA+ community. In the statehouse, I have worked with my colleagues to affirm our LGBTQIA+ community through legislation such as co-sponsoring HB 369 which would expand civil rights to our LGBTQIA+ community. As a commissioner, I have been committed to continue the work my colleagues conducted in the state legislature to make Franklin County more inclusive. We do not discriminate in the types of organizations we work with and seek out those serving traditionally marginalized communities.

15. What is your stance on HB616?

- **Erica Crawley** - HB 616 is right-wing propaganda meant to divide our community and block fundamental parts of American history from our students. Subjects mentioned in the bill, like ‘Critical Race Theory,’ have never been taught in any K-12 school in Ohio, but are meant to stir up controversy and confusion in our schools. HB 616 will reduce the quality of our students' education and bring them behind in understanding how our world works.

16. What is your stance on HB454?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Erica Crawley** - HB 454 is an attack on medical care for our LGBTQIA+ youth. There is no common sense reason why politicians should want detrimental health outcomes for our youth simply because of their gender or sexual identity.

17. What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?

- **Erica Crawley** - Our Trans/non-binary kids want to be kids; they want to play the sports they love without politicians attempting to create a culture war. We should let kids be kids and play in sports as the gender they identify as.
Franklin County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division

We reached out to all candidates whose contact information we could easily obtain. We did not have any candidates for this position submit their responses by our deadline.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

**Franklin County Court of Common Pleas**

**General Division**

**Sheryl Munson** is an incumbent judge for this position. She is running re-election as judge in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas General Division.

**Andria Noble** is running for the position of judge in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas General Division as an **Endorsed Democrat**.

**Bill Sperlazza** is running for the position of judge in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas General Division as an **Endorsed Democrat**.

**Jessica Barwell** is running for the position of judge in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas General Division.

*These candidates are listed in no particular order*

1. What are your views on LGBTQIA+ rights? What are some examples, if any, of how you have supported the community?

- **Sheryl Munson** - While I am ethically prohibited as a judicial candidate from addressing specific laws and potential litigation issues, I can say that I regard the rights of our LGBTQIA+ folx as being a matter of fundamental human rights and I support equality of treatment and the protection of their rights. I can say that I work to be inclusive in my treatment of any members of the LGBTQIA+ community that appear on my docket.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Andria Noble** - While judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court, I can say in general that LGBTQIA+ Ohioans are an important part of Ohio’s diversity.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - The LGBTQIA+ community is vital to our City and our County. For 17 years as an attorney for the City of Columbus I have strived to apply the law with fairness and compassion across the board. Discrimination of any kind has no place in a court of law, and if elected, it will have no place in my courtroom.

- **Jessica Barwell** - In my past position as a Board Member for six years and continued involvement with the Huckleberry House, I have worked to further youth homeless awareness and prevention including youth that are pushed out of their families due to their sexuality or gender identity.

  I am the founding and current chair of the SLEEP OUT! Columbus benefiting the Huckleberry House. For one night, everyone participating sleep on the street with just a sleeping bag and a piece of cardboard to raise funds and awareness for homeless youth. Huck House receives hundreds of calls every day from young people who are homeless. Young people who either made bad choices or were dealt an extremely bad hand... The common theme among them seems to deal with isolation: they have been abandoned by their families or have pulled away from them for reasons often difficult for us to articulate. They are ALL good kids desperately in need of help getting off the streets. Huck House’s first goal is to try and reunite them with family; if not possible, they provide transitional living, assistance finding a job, saving for an apartment, and much more.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

There is a need to raise awareness of youth homelessness and to work together to create change.

2. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing the LGBTQIA+ community right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Sheryl Munson** - Please see above.

- **Andria Noble** - While judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court, I can say in general that LGBTQIA+ Ohioans are an important part of Ohio’s diversity.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Issues such as domestic violence, assault, and suicide continue to plague the LGBTQIA+ community. Often times members of the LGBTQIA+ community face roadblocks to accessing vital resources to combat these issues. As a Judge it is imperative to remove these roadblocks and to ensure members of the LGBTQIA+ community have every resource—health, legal, or otherwise—at their disposal.

- **Jessica Barwell** - As a Franklin County Common Court Pleas Judge, I will treat everyone equal. Judges must be blind to sexual orientation and gender identity as well as race, color, religion, veteran status & so on. I will use every resource available to me to help those that appear in my courtroom.

3. What do you feel are the biggest issues facing young people right now, and how will you use your role/position to address those issues?

- **Sheryl Munson** - I am on the BOD of MY Project USA which is a service group for at-risk youth in the Hilltop Community and, through that work, I seek to help create opportunities for young people to live the peaceful and productive lives to which they are
entitled. I also chair the Social Justice Initiative for that organization. In the Courtroom, when I do encounter juvenile defendants or victims--so often caught up in violence in the community, I seek to structure results that lead to rehabilitation, restorative-justice outcomes, and equitable and just results. I also have an open door policy for young people to visit, intern, and shadow within my courtroom in an effort to promote knowledge of the court system and open avenues for young people to pursue careers within that space--to increase diversity of perspective within the legal system.

- **Andria Noble** - While judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court, I can say in general that LGBTQIA+ Ohioans are an important part of Ohio’s diversity and I am aware of the many meaningful LGBTQIA+ youth services in Ohio.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Young people face unprecedented times. Instantaneous communication to anyone around the globe. Their lives made the subject of social media. Young people face bullying and harassment online, and the result is weighing tremendously on the mental and emotional well being of our youth. Judges must understand these ramifications and consider them seriously when making decisions on cases.

- **Jessica Barwell** - I believe that the biggest issue that our youth face is in education especially among our Columbus City Schools. I have worked eagerly over the last six years within the Columbus City Middle and High Schools as a part of the Service of Above Self Program in Columbus Rotary. I work with these kids on all of their community service projects and help them achieve their community service goals/projects in relation to various areas that nobody wants to encounter; children with
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

dads that have died to gun violence, violence in the family, human trafficking, LGBTQIA+ family neglect, homelessness, molest, depression, emotional and physical abuse, you name it. I acknowledge and honor the Columbus City Middle School and High School Students in an awards ceremony every year with many major players of the population through the Columbus Rotary. I want to ensure that the young, and all, people who come through my courtroom are connected with organizations that can help them, not only survive, but persevere, and achieve success within the system and beyond.

4. What are some other ways the office you are seeking could support the LGBTQIA+ community?

- **Sheryl Munson** - I welcome the opportunity to meet with any LGBTQIA+ organization to discuss my role on the bench and in the community. If I am available and those invitations are extended to me, I will be there.

- **Andria Noble** - While judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court, I can say in general that LGBTQIA+ Ohioans are an important part of Ohio’s diversity.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - A Judge must apply the law with compassion, fairness, and respect, to all those who enter his courtroom. Any form of discrimination must be met with swift repercussions. In addition, all elected officials must be available to all communities to answer questions and be held accountable.

- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #2.

5. What are your views on abortion and reproductive rights?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Sheryl Munson** - For reasons stated above, I can not answer this explicitly; I will say that, generally, I believe that the revocation of human and civil rights and the imposition of others' religious or "moral" agendas upon society as a whole is not a good thing.

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question. I am endorsed by #VoteProChoice.

- **Jessica Barwell** - Due to the position that I am seeking, the judicial canons restrict me from responding to this question.

6. What ideas do you have to decrease instances of police brutality in Ohio?

- **Sheryl Munson** - I think that when a member of law enforcement commits what would be a criminal offense if a civilian committed the same act, they should be prosecuted and held accountable. Further, it is arguable, that someone who swears to "protect and serve" should be held to a strict standard.

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - Having a police review commission to oversee the departments is imperative. Often, police chiefs are political appointments by mayors who are politicians. Politics do not belong in the law, and politics do not belong in the criminal
justice system. Having an independent oversight review commission holds these departments responsible, independent of any politics.

7. What are your thoughts about the current funding structure of public schools?

- **Sheryl Munson** - Again, this is an issue that may come before me in the courtroom so I cannot be too specific as I must keep an open mind. However, I do believe that every student in every community is entitled to a quality public education in a well-resourced and comfortable building.

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - I have no opinion on this at this time because I have not reviewed the funding of all public schools. If there is a case that comes before me, I will review the facts of that case and make a determination based on the law applied to the unique facts of the case.

8. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools in historically underfunded communities?

- **Sheryl Munson** - see above

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Jessica Barwell** - This is not applicable. The office I seek has no oversight of funding for schools.

9. **Do you support gender inclusive bathrooms and affirming spaces in public schools? Why or why not?**

- **Sheryl Munson** - I would refer you to a decision I made in 20CV4102, Upper Arlington City School Board v. City of Upper Arlington Building Department, where I reversed my predecessor’s decision (after it was returned from the 10th Dist. Court of Appeals) so that I did not allow an anonymous parent to intervene to stop the agreement to build gender-neutral bathroom stalls.

- **Andria Noble** - While judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court, I can say in general that LGBTQIA+ Ohioans are an important part of Ohio’s diversity.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #5.

10. **How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio?**

- **Sheryl Munson** - Social Justice means that everyone within our community—no matter what neighborhood they come from, how much money they have, what they look like, how they identify, who they love, and what particular circumstances or obstacles they may face—is treated with respect, valued for who they are, and treated fairly throughout our social structures and inside our courtrooms. We achieve this by not settling for less.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from directly answering questions that could be material issues in cases before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Everyone deserves an equitable and equal chance of what has been loosely paraphrased as the “American Dream.” This would mean fair access to economic growth, equal rights under the law, and fair treatment by government, employers, and society.

- **Jessica Barwell** - I believe in the epitome of Justice, and there is no better mascot for that than Lady Justice, who wears a blindfold. The blindfold represents objectivity, in that justice is or should be meted out objectively, without fear or favor, regardless of money, wealth, power, or identity, blind justice and impartiality. That’s why – if elected – I believe in “Blindfold Justice” for everyone that will enter my courtroom. I believe that all persons accused of a crime in my courtroom will receive fair justice regardless of who is representing them, their socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and most importantly, their race.

There is an extreme distrust of the criminal justice system in Franklin County because too many judges fail to use blindfolded justice. I am committed to instilling confidence back into the community’s perception of Franklin County Court of Common Pleas.

11. Do you support a living minimum wage? Why do you think this is important?

- **Sheryl Munson** - Yes. I think the importance of a living minimum wage is implied in its name in that it is necessary to meet a minimum living standard.

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from directly answering questions that could be material issues in cases before the Court.
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - Yes, I support a living minimum wage because everyone should be fairly compensated and not worry about how they are going to feed their family, pay their rent, or make the choice between the light bill or food on the table.

12. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

- **Sheryl Munson** - I think that legalizing recreational marijuana is inevitable and makes sense. I can say that I allow my probationers to obtain and use medical marijuana cards.

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from directly answering questions that could be material issues in cases before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #5.

13. Please list 2-3 ways the state of Ohio can improve gun control.

- **Sheryl Munson** - I am unable to answer this question specifically; but, I think gun control measures are clearly needed.

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from directly answering questions that could be material issues in cases before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #5.
14. Please list the specific ways you will work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

- **Sheryl Munson** - See my comments from above.
- **Andria Noble** - While judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court, I can say in general that LGBTQIA+ Ohioans are an important part of Ohio’s diversity.
- **Bill Sperlazza** - I will apply the law fairly and equally to all those who enter my courtroom. I will ensure that members of each and every community have equal access to resources and services. I will champion social justice for those communities hit hardest by discrimination and hate.
- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #5.

15. What is your stance on HB616?

- **Sheryl Munson** - I am unable to comment on this specifically, but I personally believe that an accurate accounting of history serves to educate and not divide.
- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from directly answering questions that could be material issues in cases before the Court.
- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.
- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #5.

16. What is your stance on HB454?
2022 Voter Guide Candidate Responses:

- **Sheryl Munson** - I am unable to comment on this specifically, but I personally believe that we need to protect and support all of our youth and meet them where they are and respect that.

- **Andria Noble** - Judicial canons prevent me from directly answering questions that could be material issues in cases before the Court.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #5.

17. **What is your stance on trans/non binary youth participating in sports and/or other extracurricular activities aligned with their gender identity?**

- **Sheryl Munson** - This will likely be litigated soon and I am unable to comment formally.

- **Andria Noble** - While judicial canons prevent me from answering direct questions on issues that could come before the Court, I can say in general that LGBTQIA+ Ohioans are an important part of Ohio’s diversity.

- **Bill Sperlazza** - Cannon 4 of the Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits judicial candidates from answering this question.

- **Jessica Barwell** - See response to #5.