Belong where you stand.

2020 Voter Guide
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III. VOTING 101
A comprehensive guide to voting in the State of Ohio.

I. HOW DO I REGISTER OR UPDATE MY REGISTRATION?
Ohio offers three ways to register to vote: (1) online, (2) by mail, and (3) in-person. You can register online here. You can register by mail to vote in Ohio by printing a voter registration form, filling it out, and mailing it to your local election office. You can also register to vote in person at any of the following locations*:

(1) The office of the Secretary of State;
(2) The office of any of the 88 county boards of elections;
(3) The office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles;
(4) Public libraries;
(5) Public high schools or vocational schools;
(6) County treasurers’ offices; or
(7) Offices of designated agencies, including:
(8) The Department of Job and Family Services;
(9) The Department of Health
(10) The Department of Mental Health;
(11) The Department of Developmental Disabilities;
(12) Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities; or
(13) The office of any state-assisted college or university responsible for providing assistance to students with disabilities.

*When you have completed your voter registration form, please review it carefully for completeness and accuracy. You may either personally deliver, or send by U.S. Mail, your voter registration form to a county board of elections or the Secretary of State’s office. You, or another person acting on your behalf, also may deliver your application to one of the offices listed above, but you should ensure your application reaches the office of a board of elections or the Secretary of State no later than the voter registration deadline, the 30th day before the election at which you want to vote.

II. HOW DO I KNOW I’M REGISTERED?
You can check your voter registration status any time to make sure it is current, and you are eligible to vote.

III. WHEN IS ELECTION DAY?
Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Polls in the State of Ohio open at 6:30 a.m. EST to 7:30 p.m. EST. If you are in line by 7:30 p.m. EST, you have the right to stay in line and vote.
IV. WHAT DO I NEED TO VOTE?
You will need to show ID to vote in Ohio. Acceptable forms include: (1) an unexpired Ohio driver’s license or state ID card, (2) a military ID, (2) a photo ID issued by the US government or the State of Ohio that contains your name and current address and that has an expiration date that has not passed, or (3) a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document (other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections) that shows your name and current address.

V. WHAT DO I DO IF I DON’T HAVE AN ID?
If you do not have any of the above forms of identification, you may provide either your Ohio driver’s license or state identification number (which begins with two letters followed by six numbers that you can find here) or the last four digits of your Social Security number and cast a provisional ballot. Once the information is reviewed and verified by the board of elections, your ballot will be counted.

VI. I DON’T HAVE A LICENSE OR STATE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER. CAN I STILL VOTE?
Yes – provisionally. If you do not provide one of the above documents or your driver’s license/state identification number or the last four digits of your Social Security number at the precinct, you will still be able to vote using a provisional ballot. However, in order for that ballot to be counted, you must return to the board of elections no later than seven days following Election Day to provide a qualifying form of identification mentioned above.

VII. I AM TRANS AND AM AFRAID THAT MY BALLOT WILL BE DENIED BECAUSE THE NAME ON MY ID DOES NOT MATCH. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
If your registration is current and you arrive to the polls before they close, you cannot be turned away - even if your presentation doesn’t “match” your ID. A different name or gender is not a valid reason to be denied a ballot if you can verify your identity. In fact, Ohio does not require voters to show photo ID in order to vote. If you legally changed your name before updating your voter registration, bring a copy of your name change order to the polls with you. If a poll worker questions you on why your last signature on file does not match your current signature, remind them that your name has changed and your signature will need to be updated. If you are turned away:
   1. Ask to speak to an election judge, official, or supervisor.
   2. Ask to cast a provisional ballot.

VIII. WHERE DO I FIND MY PRECINCT AND POLLING LOCATION?
You can look up your precinct and polling location at any time.
IX. WILL THERE BE EARLY VOTING?
Yes. Ohio offers early mail-in voting and early in-person voting. Ohio allows any voter to request a ballot by mail. Follow the instructions in the section below to vote by mail. Ohio voters can also vote in-person before Election Day. The early voting period runs from Tuesday, October 6, 2020 to Monday, November 2, 2020, but dates and hours may vary based on where you live. Contact your local polling location which you can find here.

X. HOW DO I VOTE BY MAIL?
1. Request your mail-in ballot with a mail ballot application.
2. Fill out the application completely.
3. Submit the request to your local election office. You should request your ballot as far in advance of the election as possible. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2020.
4. When your ballot arrives, read it carefully and follow the instructions to complete it and return it.

XI. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ABSENTEE AND MAIL-IN VOTING?
There is no difference between absentee and mail-in voting. Some states prefer one term over the other, but both “absentee voting” and “mail-in voting” refer to the method of using the mail to deliver ballots to voters. Regardless of the term used in your state, all ballots delivered to voters by mail are verified before they are counted. Mail-in voting is a safe and secure way of voting. Read more about the safety and security of mail-in voting.

XII. HOW DO I KNOW MY BALLOT HAS BEEN COUNTED?
You can check the status of your ballot at any time.

XIII. WILL THERE BE ANY POLLING LOCATIONS OPEN?
Yes, polling locations will still be open on Election Day. If you vote early, consider signing up to be a poll worker. The majority of poll workers are older Americans who are at higher risk if exposed to COVID-19; by signing up to be a poll worker, you may be saving lives. If you are a poll worker, you can still vote in person on Election Day.

XIV. IS VOTING BY MAIL SECURE?
There is no evidence that mail ballots increase electoral fraud. Several anti-fraud protections are built into the process. Those who abuse mail ballots can be charged with election fraud and face fines or prison time. Learn more about the safety and security of mail-in voting.

XV. WHY SHOULD I VOTE? WHAT IS THIS GUIDE FOR?
Your vote is your voice. At KYC, we encourage our young people to be advocates for themselves and treat them as experts in their own lives which includes at the polls. This Voter Guide is intended to inform our community of the most up-to-date voting processes in the State of Ohio as well as the candidates’ stances on key issues that affect the lives of LGBTQIA+ folks.
IV. CANDIDATE GLOSSARY

All candidates listed in this Guide are officially registered as a candidate for the office in which they are seeking in the State of Ohio and will appear on the ballot as listed. Some candidates have been removed due to disqualification, death, or another form of withdrawal.

PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Biden & Kamala D. Harris

Donald J. Trump & Michael R. Pence

Jo Jorgenson & Spike Cohen

Howie Hawkins & Angela Walker

Brian Carroll & Amar Patel

Tom Hoefling & Andy Prior

Dario Hunter & Dawn Neptune Adams

Jade Simmons & Claudeliah J. Roze

Kasey Wells & Rachel Wells

REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)
THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Joyce Beatty

Mark F. Richardson

Angela Davis

Nicholas D. Moss

Democratic Party
Republican Party
Libertarian Party
Green Party
Write-In
Incumbent
REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS (HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)
TWELFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Alaina Shearer
Troy Balderson
John Stewart
FIFTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Joel Newby
Steve Stivers
Shane Hoffman

STATE SENATOR
OHIO SENATE DISTRICT SIXTEEN
Crystal Lett
Stephanie L. Kunze

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT SEVENTEEN
Adam C. Miller
Tim D. Haske
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT EIGHTEEN
Kristin Biggs
Kayla Anne Packard
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT NINETEEN
Mary Lightbody
Meredith Freedhoff
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT TWENTY
Richard Brown
Chris Baer
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT TWENTY-ONE
Beth Liston
Mehek Cook
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT TWENTY-TWO
David Leland
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT TWENTY-THREE
Nancy Day-Achauer

OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT TWENTY-FOUR
Allison Russo

Pat Manley

OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT TWENTY-FIVE
Dontavious Jarrells

Jim Burgess

OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT TWENTY-SIX
Erica C. Crawley

Shareeqe Arife Sadiq

Steve Dodge

COUNTY COMMISSIONER
TERM COMMEN. 01/02/2021
Kevin L. Boyce

Andrew C. Littler

TERM COMMEN. 01/03/2021
John O'Grady

Luis Gil

COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
Gary Tyack

Ron O’Brien

CLERK - FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Maryellen O'Shaughnessy

Jarrod M. Golden

COUNTY SHERIFF
Dallas L. Baldwin

COUNTY RECORDER
Danny O’Connor
COUNTY TREASURER
Cheryl Brooks Sullivan
Brandon Cross

COUNTY ENGINEER
Cornell R. Robertson

COUNTY CORONER
Anahi Ortiz

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SIXTH)
Antionette Miranda

Alice Nicks
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (NINTH)
Michelle Newman
Ron Hood

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
TERM COMMEN. 01/01/2021
John P. O’Donnell

Sharon L. Kennedy
TERM COMMEN. 01/02/2021
Jennifer Brunner
Judith French

JUDGE OF THE TENTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS
TERM COMMEN. 02/09/2021
Michael C. Mentel
Colleen O’Donnell
TERM COMMEN. 07/01/2021
Terri Jamison
Lisa L. Sadler

JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEASES
TERM COMMEN. 01/01/2021
Carl Aveni*
Josh Brown

*Carl Aveni is a sitting Board Member for KYC. We do not endorse candidates, and this Voter Guide was constructed through a nonpartisan process.
JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
TERM COMMEN. 02/09/2021
Andy Miller

Jenifer French
TERM COMMEN. 07/01/2021
David Young

Michael J. Cassone
TERM COMMEN. 07/02/2021
Chris Brown

Michael E. Carleton

JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS UTE
TERM COMMEN. 01/05/2023
Sheryl Munson

Gina R. Russo

JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DOMESTIC RELATIONS
TERM COMMEN. 01/02/2021
George W. Leach

Dana Suzanne Preisse
TERM COMMEN. 01/03/2021
Lasheyl Stroud

Stephanie Hanna

JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE
TERM COMMEN. 02/09/2021
Jeff Mackey

Robert G. Montgomery
V. QUESTIONS

All candidates listed in this Guide are provided the following questionnaire to answer.

1. Do you support the LGBTQIA+ community? Please provide examples of ways you have been supportive of the community and LGBTQIA+ young people specifically.

2. In what ways will you work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community?

3. How can the office you’re seeking support that?

4. What do you feel are the three most critical issues impacting LGBTQIA+ young people in Ohio?

5. Approximately 40% of all homeless youth are members of the LGBTQIA+ community. What are your suggestions to increase homelessness prevention efforts? What ideas do you have to increase access to safe, affirming housing opportunities for LGBTQIA+ young people?

6. What is your stance on the Ohio Fairness Act (HB369) that protects LGBTQIA+ people against employment discrimination, housing discrimination, and discrimination in accessing basic goods and services?

7. In 2019, at least 25 transgender or gender non-conforming people were fatally shot or killed by other violent means. How would you address and prevent this violence, especially among transgender women of color?

8. What is your stance on HB503 that would ban the practice known as “conversion therapy”?

9. What is your stance on the Protecting Vulnerable Children Act (HB513) that would place a complete ban on affirming physical and mental health treatment of LGBTQIA+ youth in Ohio with a specific focus on transgender youth?

10. What is your stance on the Save Women’s Sports Act (HB527) which would ban transgender athletes from high school and college sports?

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

12. How will you prevent police brutality and police misconduct against Black people, communities of color, and young people?

13. What is your stance on police reform?

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

15. What ideas do you have to increase funding and resources to schools located in predominantly marginalized areas?

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

17. Do you support affirmative action policies and programs?

18. Do you support a $15 minimum wage? Why or why not?

19. What is your position on legalizing recreational marijuana?

20. Do you support gun control legislation? Why or why not?
V. CANDIDATE ANSWERS

KYC reached out to all the campaign offices of the candidates listed in this Guide. Each office was given equal opportunity to complete the questionnaire. The candidates featured in this Voter Guide are the only candidates that responded to KYC’s outreach.

PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT
Joseph R. Biden & Kamala D. Harris

1. Joe Biden believes that every human being should be treated with respect and dignity and be able to live without fear no matter who they are or who they love. During the Obama-Biden Administration, the United States made historic strides toward LGBTQ+ equality—from the repeal of “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” to Biden’s historic declaration in support of marriage equality on Meet the Press in 2012 to the unprecedented advancement of protections for LGBTQ+ Americans at the federal level. As President, Biden will stand with the LGBTQ+ community to ensure America finally lives up to the promise on which it was founded: equality for all. He will provide the moral leadership to champion equal rights for all LGBTQ+ people, fight to ensure our laws and institutions protect and enforce their rights, and advance LGBTQ+ equality globally. Biden will: (1) protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination, (2) support LGBTQ+ youth, (3) protect LGBTQ+ individuals from violence and work to end the epidemic of violence against the transgender community, particularly transgender women of color, (4) expand access to high-quality health care for LGBTQ+ individuals, (5) ensure fair treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals in the criminal justice system, (6) collect data necessary to fully support the LGBTQ+ community, and (7) advance global LGBTQ+ rights and development.

2. Joe Biden believes that leadership begins at the top and has a comprehensive plan to expand and protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals domestically and abroad, including the passage of the Equality Act. You can go to joebiden.com/lgbtq-policy to learn more.

3. While we cannot speak on behalf of what Joe Biden personally feels are the three most critical issues impacting LGBTQIA+ young people in Ohio, we encourage readers to view joebiden.com/lgbtq-policy to see how he will lift the voices of LGBTQIA+ and ensure their civil rights as well as joebiden.com/education to see how he will protect them in schools.

4. The Obama-Biden Administration ensured federally funded homeless shelters provide housing according to an individual’s gender identity and cannot refuse services based on gender identity or sexual orientation. The Trump-Pence Administration has since proposed allowing shelters to discriminate against transgender people when determining their accommodations, for example,
by forcing transgender women to sleep and use the bathroom in the same place as men. As President, Biden will secure the passage of the Equality Act, ensuring that no President can ever again single-handedly roll back civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, including in housing and homeless shelters. Read Biden’s full housing plan at joebiden.com/housing.

5. Joe Biden strongly supports any legislation supporting civil rights protections for LGBTQIA+ people in all facets of life, including the Ohio Fairness Act.

6. One of the driving forces throughout Biden’s career has been fighting back against abuses of power. That force motivated him to write and champion the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, to defeat the National Rifle Association twice, and to strongly condemn the epidemic of violence against the LGBTQ+ community, including transgender women of color. As President, Biden will protect LGBTQ+ people from violence, whether in the home, in their community, or when coming into this country. He will also ensure that we support LGBTQ+ survivors of violence. As a direct response to the high rates of homicide of transgender people—particularly transgender women of color—the Biden Administration will make prosecuting their murderers a priority. And during his first 100 days in office, Biden will direct federal resources to help prevent violence against transgender women, particularly transgender women of color. Recognizing that employment and housing discrimination lead to increased risk of homelessness and violence, Biden will also work to pass the Equality Act to reduce economic barriers and social stigma and the LGBTQ Essential Data Act to help collect a wide variety of critical data about anti-trans violence and the factors that drive it. He will also direct his Administration to update the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reports Supplementary Homicide Reports (UCR-SHR) to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Currently, these reports do not include categories for sexual orientation and gender identity, hampering our ability to fully diagnose and measure the extent of violent crimes against transgender, gay, lesbian, and bisexual victims.

7. Hundreds of thousands of LGBTQ+ individuals have been subjected to so-called “conversion therapy” during their lifetime, which Biden knows is deeply harmful, highly unscientific, and often leads to trauma. The Obama-Biden Administration supported legislative efforts to ban “conversion therapy” against minors, but today this practice is only fully banned for minors in 19 states. As President, Biden will work to enact the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act.

8. Joe Biden is a strong supporter of inclusive and affirming health care for LGBTQIA+ individuals. Biden’s health care plan includes guaranteeing the Affordable Care Act’s nondiscrimination protections for the LGBTQ+ community, ensuring coverage for comprehensive care for LGBTQ+ Americans, and expanding mental health and suicide prevention services for LGBTQIA+ individuals.
9. No, Joe Biden is not in support of any legislation that bans transgender athletes from participating in sports on the basis of gender identity.

10. While we cannot speak on behalf of what Joe Biden’s personal definition of social justice is, we encourage readers to explore joebiden.com/justice to see how he will ensure every American the dignity and respect they deserve.

11. Equality, equity, justice – these ideas form the American creed. We have never lived up to it and we haven’t always gotten it right, but we’ve never stopped trying. This is especially true when it comes to our criminal justice system. Today, too many people are incarcerated in the United States – and too many of them are black and brown. To build safe and healthy communities, we need to rethink who we’re sending to jail, how we treat those in jail, and how we help them get the health care, education, jobs, and housing they need to successfully rejoin society after they serve their time. As president, Joe Biden will strengthen America’s commitment to justice and reform our criminal justice system. Go to joebiden.com/reform to learn more about Biden’s comprehensive plan.

12. Biden is strongly in support of police reform across the country, and no short answer can do this crucial issue justice. Read Biden’s full plan at joebiden.com/justice.

13. Biden holds American public schools in the highest regard. Learn more about Biden’s comprehensive education plan at joebiden.com/education. You can also learn more about how Biden will protect LGBTQIA+ young people specifically at joebiden.com/lgbtq-policy.

14. Go to joebiden.com/education to see Biden’s full education plan, which provides a detailed funding plan.

15. Biden fully supports the right of LGBTQIA+ individuals to use the bathroom of the gender in which they identify. Learn more about how Biden will protect LGBTQIA+ youth in schools at joebiden.com/lgbtq-policy.

16. Yes, Biden is strongly in support of affirmative action policies and programs.

17. Yes, Biden believes that anyone working 40 hours a week should make a livable wage. Learn more about Biden’s economic plan at joebiden.com/the-biden-emergency-action-plan-to-save-the-economy.

18. Biden has not fully committed to the legalization of recreational marijuana. However, Biden
would like to pursue more research into the safety and efficacy of the drug. Additionally, expunging the records of prisoners with mild drug offenses is a key part of his criminal justice plan. Learn more at joebiden.com/justice.

19. Yes, Joe Biden took on the National Rifle Association and won – twice. Learn about Biden’s comprehensive plan at joebiden.com/gunsafety.

Donald J. Trump
& Michael R. Pence

On 10/7/20, the campaign requested their responses not be published.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT SEVENTEEN
Adam C. Miller

1. Yes. I have been an advocate and proponent for things like the Ohio Fairness Act and a loud opponent to anti LGBTQIA+ initiatives in the House.

2. I work closely with equal rights advocacy groups on legislation. But it is more than that. Legislatures must be visible, and loud, in their support for and working with, organizations that fight for equal rights.

3. Misguided stigma, acceptance, equal footing with their peers.

4. We have failed in addressing homelessness. From veterans to members of the LGBTQIA+ community. For too long, we’ve looked the other way and allowed 3rd parties to bare much of the work. The government must lead. There is no excuse in the most powerful country in the world to have homelessness of any kind.

5. I am a proud cosponsor.

6. Gun violence is unacceptable in our country and preventable. Overcoming hate is just one step. Too many people who shouldn’t, have too many guns, threatening all of us, but especially those who are often set aside by hate groups and others.

7. I am a proud cosponsor.
8. I strongly oppose. We should be helping LGBTQIA+ children. This bill does not do that.

9. I strongly oppose.

10. Social justice to me means we are only as strong as our most vulnerable, poorest population. In Ohio, we are failing that measure.

11. We need to start anew and take a fresh look at how we police and protect our citizens. We cannot continue with the status quo.

12. We need to start anew and take a fresh look at how we police and protect our citizens. We cannot continue with the status quo.

13. A child’s future should not depend on the zip code of their school. Efforts to improve are promising, but if we simply put duct tape on a broken system, we will be failing our children and their future.

14. Schools should be funded so every child has an equal opportunity to succeed. We don’t do that now. Marginalized populations need more help and more funding and they should get it. We can’t let opponents make this a zero-sum game. It is not.

15. There are ways to make bathrooms safe for everyone. We may need to start with infrastructure and revisit how we construct and use restrooms. For instance, many private sector organizations are using gender neutral individual restrooms. But we have to start now.

16. Affirmative action has many forms and interpretations. Government does have a role in righting the wrongs of centuries of discrimination. When we do that, everyone wins.

17. I support a strong minimum wage. I don’t know if $15 is the number of if it should be higher, but I do know it is far too low today.

18. Science and social norms are changing when it comes to marijuana. Other states are lessening their rules and regulations. We must rethink our nation’s drug policies and the criminal justice system. But I am apprehensive to make a blanket statement on recreational marijuana. We have to understand the science and the impact on society.

19. I support efforts to take guns away from those who have shown they are not capable, able, or rational enough to use a firearm. Examples of this would include domestic abusers, people with a history of violence, or those with restraining orders.
1. As Franklin County Prosecutor, I have been defending equality for decades. Working with City Council Members Cindy Lazarus and John Kennedy in 1988, I drafted and supported an ordinance that prohibited various types of discrimination based upon sexual orientation. In addition, I supported inclusion of sexual orientation as a protected group for the ethnic intimidation ordinance. As Columbus City Attorney in 1990, my office prosecuted the first case under the city’s ethnic intimidation law involving the harassment of a Victorian Village gay couple. In 2005, I personally prosecuted Michael Jennings, who murdered Brazon, Miss Gay Ohio. Jennings was convicted and sentenced to 25 years to life. I worked with the Lambda Legal Defense Fund in 2006 to successfully defend the constitutionality of the domestic violence law when it was attacked based upon the Ohio “Defense of Marriage Act.” In 2012, I was honored by BRAVO for my longtime protection of LGBTQIA+ community members, and in 2015 I was named “Prosecutor of the Year” by the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

2. My sworn duty as County Prosecutor is to protect and defend Franklin County residents – all of them – regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. I have prosecuted, and will continue to prosecute, felonies against members of the LGBTQIA+ community, including hate crimes. My office’s Special Victims Unit and Victim Witness Assistance Unit handle specialized cases that disproportionately affect the LGBTQIA+ community, including sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, child abuse and homicide cases. Also, my office has given a substantial annual grant to BRAVO to aid in education and prevention efforts in the community to provide safety and avoid targeted violence.

3. So many of the issues impacting our LGBTQIA+ youth are intertwined, with one issue impacting and causing another. (1) Violence motivated by perception of sexual orientation and gender identity: this includes random acts of violence against members of the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as physical and psychological bullying that so many young people encounter in a school setting. (2) Discrimination: this includes overt discrimination in the workplace and in housing, as well as familial rejection, which oftentimes has serious mental health ramifications (i.e. depression and subsequent substance abuse). (3) Homelessness that stems from familial rejection. Homelessness disrupts critical development in young people, and can lead to diminished mental and physical health, lower education attainment, and create a cycle of economic instability.

4. While the Franklin County Prosecutor does not oversee housing legislation, the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Tax Division works with the city and county land banks to acquire tax-delinquent properties for rehabilitation and development. Our office also works with the Economic Development Division to require housing developments that receive tax incentives to devote a
minimum percentage to affordable housing.

5. I support legislation that protects LGBTQIA+ people against employment discrimination, housing discrimination, and discrimination in accessing basic goods and services.

6. Two years ago, my office prosecuted at least one murder case where the victim was transgender, and we obtained a conviction.

7. I am not familiar with that specific bill. In the past, I have supported a ban on conversion therapy.

8. I am not familiar with that bill, and unless affecting the office, generally do not support or oppose legislation.

9. I am not familiar with that bill, and unless affecting the office generally do not support or oppose legislation.

10. Social justice in the context of the criminal justice system provides fairness and due process to those being investigated and prosecuted regardless of personal or different individual characteristics. Training for law enforcement is a key to achieving social justice, including implicit bias education.

11. We must continue to aggressively pursue criminal justice reform to restore community confidence. Teams of social workers, mental health professionals and available resources must be directed to at-risk youths, neighborhoods, and crisis situations to reduce community tension and improve police relations. As a member of the Ohio Collaborative Police-Community Advisory Board, I will continue to advocate for the creation of use-of-force parameters to guide officers in the handling of protests. And along with my colleagues in the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, I have advocated that independent police investigations be conducted and special prosecutors appointed when there has been use of deadly force. Finally, when there is provable police misconduct, I have prosecuted those violations of law. For example, my office prosecuted Robert Wells, a Franklin Township officer who kicked a handcuffed suspect in the face, and Columbus Police Department Officer Andrew Mitchell who will face trial in the murder of Donna Castleberry, a woman he was attempting to arrest for a sex offense.

12. Please see the above response.

13. The County Prosecutor’s office has no direct involvement in the funding structure of public schools, but tax abatements that are not necessary to incentivize development should be ceased as they deprive schools of tax resources.

14. The County Prosecutor’s office has no involvement in the funding structure of public schools.
15. I generally not support or oppose legislation that does not affect the operation of the County Prosecutor’s office.

16. Do you support affirmative action policies and programs? We are a founding member and annually participate in the Columbus Bar Association Minority Clerkship Program.

17. The Prosecutor’s office does not set the minimum wage, but recently requested a budget based on the need to provide at least a $15/hour wage to all employees in our office. I am a longtime supporter and friend of organized labor, and have earned endorsements from the following groups this election cycle: Central Ohio Labor Council AFL-CIO, Columbus/Central Ohio Building and Construction Trades Council, Columbus Fire Fighters Union Local #67, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 18, Ohio AFSCME Power in Action, Teamsters Local 284, Teamsters Local Union No. 413 and United Steelworkers District 1.

18. The power to legalize recreational marijuana rests with the Ohio legislature. I do believe Ohio needs a uniform policy, and not a piecemeal policy where cities and municipalities act independently of each other. Such a piecemeal policy would lead to confusion among law enforcement, prosecutors, and the general public. We saw this last year when the City of Columbus chose not to prosecute misdemeanor marijuana possession.

19. I support enforcing the laws we have on the books, and closing loopholes that disproportionately affect our younger populations. For example, in Ohio is it legal for a juvenile to possess a firearm. I have prosecuted cases where adults commit a criminal act with a firearm, then transfer that firearm to a juvenile to avoid being charged with a gun specification. The legislature has considered amending this law and making it legal for a juvenile to possess a firearm only in the presence of a parent or guardian while hunting or participating in sport. I would support such legislation.

CLERK - FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
Maryellen O’Shaughnessy

The Franklin County Clerk of Courts office Legal Division is responsible for receiving, receipting, managing, and retaining all legal documents filed through the Court of Common Pleas and the 10th District Court of Appeals. Our Auto Title Division manages titles and proof of vehicle ownership. Both divisions do their jobs in strict adherence to Ohio laws and rules. I have approximately 200 full-time Deputy Clerks serving in five divisions: Auto Title, Legal, Fiscal Services, Information Technology, and Administration. Four of those divisions are in seven different offices.
1. Absolutely! I work to support the LGBTIA+ community in my personal interactions with neighbors and friends, and professionally advocate at the community level to make sure LGBTQIA+ voices are at the decision making tables in our community. I also enjoy working with our Newark PRIDE coalition each year to make PRIDE a stellar event in downtown Newark.

2. One of the biggest things anyone in a leadership position can do is (1) stay up to date on issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community, (2) connect and maintain with LGBTQIA+ leaders in our community and (3) speak up for the community in our spheres. At the State Board of Education, I feel it will be important to keep in mind our students and staff in the LGBTQIA+ community and ask the questions in all topics of discussion where it pertains - which honestly could be nearly every issue.

3. What do you feel are the three most critical issues impacting LGBTQIA+ young people in Ohio? 1) In the COVID time period, I am concerned about kids who may be virtual schooling at home and not in a supportive environment. Are they slipping through the cracks and
damage being done while they are away from school? (2) Playing off #1, once kids get back in
school, are the schools a safe and welcoming environment? (3) Mental health service availability
to LGBTQIA+ youth has been and continues to be a problem.

4. We must work in our communities to ensure our care agencies are welcome and affirming.
Youth must feel comfortable seeking help and knowing they will be cared for and respected.
We can do this by supporting those groups who are welcoming - as citizens we can choose to
support them through fundraising and awareness, and we can shine the light on those
organizations that are not welcoming.

5. It seems pretty straightforward that everyone is treated the same. To me, it is common sense
that protections against discrimination should be in order for us all.

6. I think that as good citizens we have to speak up in our communities. We need to communi-
cate with our elected officials, police departments, neighbors and friends about how we all need
to look out for one another. Violence against transgender people is something that should not be
ignored in any community.

7. We must end this practice. No one needs “converted” - except for the fact that folks need to un-
derstand we are born exactly how we should be, and that is wonderful.

8. I think this bill is an embarrassment to the people of Ohio, and it is in fact authored by my op-
ponent, Ron Hood. http://www.ohiohouse.gov/ron-hood We cannot have this person on the
State Board of Education and know he will pay any attention to the needs of the LGBTQIA+ pop-
ulation.

9. Banning participation in sports for anyone due to their gender is not acceptable. All kids
should be able to play sports.

10. This is a huge question, and I feel by answering succinctly, I am not doing it justice. Social
Justice is assuring we all have the same opportunities to succeed. Our success in life should not
be based on color, sexual preference, or our zip code. It seems like such a simple idea, but our
systems have been setup in such ways where they do not provide equal opportunities for all. As
good citizens we must continually look to see what systems are not just and work to make them
better for all. In the SBOE, this is looking at school funding, removing bias from curriculum and
hiring, and ensuring that ALL kids have the same opportunity to thrive and grow within our
public schools.
11. As a community leader I try to keep open communication with my elected representatives, police officers, and nonprofit leaders to make sure our community is listening and making changes.

12. I believe that police officers currently have a huge load of responsibility. Not only are they required to police crime, but they are often put in positions where they need to be a social worker, assisting some of the most vulnerable in our population. The pressure is extreme, and bringing other professionals into the mix of policing could provide outcomes far superior for our communities. The restructuring of how we “police” could allow officers more stability in their position while protecting our most vulnerable citizens and providing them the resources they need without being thrown directly into the criminal justice system.

13. Our current funding structure is unconstitutional and must be changed. Opportunities for our kids is heavily reliant on their zip code. We must find a way to level the playing field. We have gone too long under this unjust system.

14. We have to make it a priority, honestly. We have to make sure that our underfunded schools are made a priority as we structure new funding systems.

15. Yes. We need all of our kids to feel safe and accepted. Districts should be able to manage this as they need to.

16. More often than not, yes. We were all not given the same opportunities to succeed, and very often we must use intentionality to diversify thoughts and opinions.

17. I do. One job should be enough for a person to have to work and survive. Juggling multiple low wage jobs to make ends meet isn’t doing anyone in our community any good.

18. It’s honestly not something I have spent a great deal of time thinking about! ha! For all intents and purposes, I believe legalizing it recreationally would prevent many from ending up in our overburdened criminal justice system. If you aren’t hurting others, seems like it would be okay.

19. Do you support gun control legislation? Why or why not? I do. While I recognize it is a right to own guns, I don’t personally understand why a normal citizen would need automated weapons.
1. Yes. During the pandemic, I collected cleaning supplies, toiletries and feminine products and delivered them to the KYC office.

2. The job of a judge is to protect due process rights of all the community. I will be honest and fair to everyone that appears before me. The Court of Appeals reviews the decisions of the trial court to be sure that the law is applied fairly to all. If it is not, you can reverse the trial court’s decision.

3. Homelessness, human trafficking and education.

4. First, we have to provide transportation services that will allow youth to arrive at a job site safely. Education is essential to success. Having access to virtual education wherever you’re staying is critical. Partnerships with union apprenticeships or internships to prepare youth for the job market. My idea was to take old hotels and convert them to apartments that are rented at a pro-rata basis according to your income. The challenge is creating an environment with services on site, education, case managers, and security to provide protection to the residents.

5. I follow the law and having grown up in a segregated county in WV, I have first-hand experience with discrimination. I do not discriminate against anyone. The state of Ohio laws prohibit discrimination for race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc.

6. Violence against persons of color is statistically perpetrated by males in the age range of 13-35. We have to increase opportunity for those persons and develop cultural sensitivity training protocols within schools. The earlier we educate the children to accept what is considered different to them, the sooner we can deter hatred driven violence.

7. I cannot opine on this issue as it could come before the Court of Appeals if challenged.

8. I cannot opine on this issue as it could come before the Court of Appeals.

9. I cannot opine on this issue as it could come before the Court of Appeals.

10. Equal distribution of wealth and opportunities between society and citizens. Fair funding of public education, equal opportunities for employment, reduction in incarceration rates, removing barriers to re-entry to society after incarceration.
11. As a judge, we don't have that power but if the officers are charged with misconduct, we can review the cases if appealed to be sure that the law is applied fairly.

12. I believe that we are at a place where police reform is necessary.

13. It is has been held to be unconstitutional and legislature needs to come up with a plan that comports with the ruling from the Ohio Supreme Court.

14. Redistribute some of the budget spent on purchase of heavy weaponry to schools and teachers’ salaries.

15. This issue may come before the Court of Appeals if challenged so I cannot give an opinion.

16. Affirmative action should be reinstated. The realities of race make it necessary to open doors of opportunity for all that are marginalized.

17. Absolutely. Statistics show that $20 per hour is really needed so $15 per hour is an intermediate step to providing adequate wages.

18. I cannot opine as this could come before the Court of Appeals.

19. I support the concept of controlling the type of weapons that are available to the general community. However, I do not want the police or hate groups to be the only ones with weapons. We need to be able to protect ourselves, so we do not become victims.

Lisa L. Sadler

1. I support the LGBTQIA + community and have long recognized the many unique challenges faced by this community and their youth. I have family and friends who are members of this community and I attended the very first Garden Party at the home of my dear friend, the late Scot Dewhirst. I attend events and programs involving the community.

2. How can the office you’re seeking support that? My role as appellate judge in the State of Ohio is to protect the rights of all persons and to ensure equal justice under the law. I was one of the first judges to apply the domestic violence law to same sex couples.

3. Three of the most critical issues impacting LGBTQIA+ youth are bullying, homelessness and isolation.
4. Members of this community are more likely to become homeless due to discrimination. It is through education, knowledge and enforcement of laws such as HUD’s Equal Access Rule that homeless youth can gain access to safe housing.

5. Unlike the legislature elected to represent constituents and enact legislation that constituents will support, judges are elected to be fair and impartial and to follow the law, not to impose their personal beliefs of what the law should be. While judges have some freedom to share their personal beliefs, they must do so within strict limits and provided they do not violate the standards of speech contained within the Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judicial Conduct is governed by the Judicial Canons designed to preserve judicial independence, integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary. Canon 4, Rule 4.1(A) (6) prohibits judges from commenting on cases, controversies and issues that may come before the Court. Engaging in such prohibited conduct may lead to a judge’s disqualification from proceedings involving those very issues. In fact, studies have shown that judges who answer questionnaires are often later challenged by those holding opposing views when such a case comes before them. The Canons require that judges avoid making comments that would lead to such disqualification. The Tenth District Court of Appeals hears cases involving state legislation. Therefore, because HB369 may come before the appellate court for review, I must refrain from commenting on HB369 and answering this question.

6. Hate crimes must be enforced to help prevent violence against transgender or gender non-conforming people.

7. I must refrain from answering this question regarding HB503. Please see answer to Question #5.

8. I must refrain from answering this question regarding HB513. Please see answer to Question #5.

9. I must refrain from answering this question regarding HB527. Please see answer to Question #5.

10. How do you define social justice? What would this look like in the state of Ohio? Social justice means equal rights, opportunities and treatment for all. The courts provide stability to the community and help resolve disputes while protecting the rights of all people and protecting both the individual citizen as well as communities. I believe that justice reforms such as specialty courts and restorative justice programs help meet the changing issues facing our community.

11. The courts can only affect the conduct of others by addressing misconduct in the cases that
come before them and the judgments that are rendered.

12. I must refrain from taking a stance on police reform as this issue may come before the court for review. Please see answer to question #5. However, any type of reform, such as is the case with judicial reform, can only take place once a need is recognized, and education and training take place.

13. I must refrain from taking a stance on funding structures of public schools as this issue can come before the courts for review. Please see answer to question #5.

14. Please see answer to question # 13.

15. I must refrain from taking a stance on this issue as it may come before the court for review. Please see answer to question #5.

16. I must refrain from taking a stance on affirmative action policies and programs because those issues may come before the court. Please see answer to question #5.

17. I must refrain from taking a stance on minimum wage issues for the reasons stated in my answer to question #5.

18. I must refrain from taking a position on legalizing recreational marijuana for the reasons stated in my answer to question #5.

19. I must refrain from taking a stance on gun control legislation for the reasons stated in my answer to question #5.

JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
TERM COMMEN. 01/01/2021
Carl Aveni*

*Carl Aveni is a sitting Board Member at KYC.

1. I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Kaleidoscope Youth Center, a privilege I have enjoyed since January 2019. In January, 2018, I was a Gold Sponsor of the fundraiser to launch the Transgender Children’s Legal Defense Fund. I have been a member of HRC, and have been an active supporter of Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio (which, in turn, has also endorsed me
in this judicial race). For the 11 years that I have been on social media, I have used that platform and my voice to support marriage equality, Transgender Rights as Human Rights, and for the last two years, the mission of KYC in particular.

2. Whether elected or not, I will continue to serve on the Board of KYC, and will use my platform and voice to amplify the authentic voices of the LGBTQIA+ community. As a judge, I would be duty-bound to follow the law and facts of any particular dispute as I find it; and I am not permitted under the Code of Judicial Conduct (the ethical rules governing judicial candidates and judges) to prejudge any issue in hypothetical. Nevertheless, as an officer of the court, I am permitted to acknowledge my solemn duty to ensure that all litigants, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community are given equal access to the courts and held with equal dignity before the law.

3. From my service on the KYC Board, I have come to appreciate the critical importance and dire need for: (1) housing security, (2) access to mental health services, and (3) safe places to interact authentically and grow into adults and leaders.

4. Through its partnership with Huckleberry House, and through its own rapid rehousing work, KYC has been a leader in solving housing insecurity within the community of LGBTQIA+ young people. These efforts should be duplicated across a broader geographical footprint and guaranteed by secure and recurring funding support.

5. Unlike every other sort of elected official, Judges and Judicial Candidates are prohibited from commenting on pending legislation, partisan issues, and issues that may come before a court. There are good reasons for this ethical prohibition, found in the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judges must take cases as they find them, without appearance of bias or prejudgment. Thus, I am not permitted to comment on this question as it is posed, narrowly on the subject of specific pending legislation. That said, however, I am free to generally observe that, normatively, our laws should be implemented to protect marginalized communities from discrimination on the basis of immutable characteristics, such as sexual orientation and gender identity. I can also say that if this antidiscrimination bill was enacted into law, I would be duty-bound to apply and interpret that anti-discrimination law in the discharge of my judicial duties, and I would be glad to do so.

6. Violence against transgendered women of color is a multifactorial problem, and any solution will require participation by anti-violence groups, women's rights groups, racial justice groups, the judiciary and federal and state law enforcement agencies. Public education, policy change and
community efforts are needed. But it starts with having elected officials—including judges, prosecutors, and legislators—who recognize the problem and take it seriously, as well as a community angry enough to insist on forcing change.

7. Unlike every other sort of elected official, Judges and Judicial Candidates are prohibited from commenting on pending legislation, partisan issues, and issues that may come before a court. There are good reasons for this ethical prohibition, found in the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judges must take cases as they find them, without appearance of bias or prejudgment. Thus, I am not permitted to comment on this question as it is posed, narrowly on the subject of pending legislation. That said, I am free to generally observe the broad consensus among the scientific and medical communities that so-called “conversion therapy” is medically unsound, significantly detrimental to patient health, and proven to be scientifically ineffective. I can also say that if this anti-“conversion therapy” bill was enacted into law, I would be duty-bound to apply and interpret that law in the discharge of my judicial duties, and I would be glad to do so.

8. Unlike every other sort of elected official, Judges and Judicial Candidates are prohibited from commenting on pending legislation, partisan issues, and issues that may come before a court. There are good reasons for this ethical prohibition, found in the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judges must take cases as they find them, without appearance of bias or prejudgment. Thus, I am not permitted to comment on this question as it is posed, narrowly on the subject of pending legislation. That said, I am free to generally observe the consensus among scientific, medical, and social work professionals that transgendered youth have particular physical and mental health needs, requiring specialized and sensitive care and support; and that their well-being is not helped by denying those needs or pretending that those needs don’t exist in service of some preexisting ideology.

9. Unlike every other sort of elected official, Judges and Judicial Candidates are prohibited from commenting on pending legislation, partisan issues, and issues that may come before a court. There are good reasons for this ethical prohibition, found in the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judges must take cases as they find them, without appearance of bias or prejudgment. Thus, I am not permitted to comment on this question as it is posed, narrowly on the subject of pending legislation. That said, I am free to generally observe the many recognized social, leadership and character-building benefits of organized athletics, and my expectation that those benefits would be equally helpful to transgendered youth as to the rest of the community.

10. Social justice is the idea that everyone deserves equal rights to participate in the economic, political, and social opportunities of our community. It necessarily includes the recognition that
there are longstanding structural and systemic barriers to that participation, and a commitment to breaking those barriers down. As Dr. Cornell West has explained, in one of my favorite sayings: “Justice is what Love looks like in public.” Any effort to improve social justice in central Ohio would necessarily start by recognizing the root issues of systemic racism, misogyny, and poverty.

11. Unlike every other sort of elected official, Judges and Judicial Candidates are prohibited from commenting on issues that may come before a court. There are good reasons for this ethical prohibition, found in the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judges must take cases as they find them, without appearance of bias or prejudgment. Thus, I am not permitted to comment on this question as it is posed, since the topic of police brutality is certain to come before Franklin County courts in the coming term. I am allowed, however, to acknowledge that implicit bias exists in policing, and that the entirety of our justice system—including the judiciary and our courts as well as the police—lands disproportionately on communities of color. I have reviewed the Implicit Bias studies by the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and the picture it paints is devastating. But one also needn’t read academic studies to understand this: our culture has been steeped in these stories for years, and they are repeated in our newspaper headlines with dispiriting frequency. From Emmitt Till to George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. That said, if a Franklin County Prosecutor brought a police brutality case, and it was assigned to my courtroom, I would handle it as every judge should: on its merits, according to its specific facts.

12. It is clear that our community has finally come to recognize that our policing in Franklin County needs reform. But unlike every other sort of elected official, Judges and Judicial Candidates are prohibited from commenting on issues that may come before a court. There are good reasons for this ethical prohibition, found in the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judges must take cases as they find them, without appearance of bias or prejudgment. Thus, I am not permitted to comment on the specifics of this question as it is posed, because the specific mechanisms of police reform are certain to come before Franklin County Courts in the coming term. I am also permitted to disclose that, as a judicial candidate, I declined to screen for endorsement by the Fraternal Order of Police, in light of concerns that I had about their institutional resistance to reform, as exhibited in their statements on the topic this past summer.

13. The Ohio Supreme Court has held that the current funding mechanisms of our public schools is unconstitutional. I have read their opinion, which would be binding on me as a lower court Judge, and do not disagree. Our current funding mechanisms for public schools work to the deep and lasting disadvantage of poorer districts and impoverished neighborhoods. We can do better.
14. I cannot answer this question under the Code of Judicial Conduct, as this question is squarely before the legislature following the Ohio Supreme Court’s decision in DeRolph v. Ohio.

15. Yes. Transgender and nonbinary kids have a tough enough time as it is without having to be forced into gendered spaces at odds with their identity at school. Although I must also add that any legal challenge to the mechanics of any particular school policy would necessarily be decided on its merits and particular facts.

16. Yes. Notionally, affirmative action policies have been consistently upheld as consistent with the Equal Protection Clauses of the 14th Amendment. Although I must also add that any legal challenge to the mechanics of any particular policy or program would necessarily be decided on its merits and particular facts.

17. I support the notion of a livable wage, but I do not believe that as a judicial candidate, I am able to be more specific than that. Unlike every other sort of elected official, Judges and Judicial Candidates are prohibited from commenting on pending legislation, partisan issues, and issues that may come before a court. There are good reasons for this ethical prohibition, found in the Code of Judicial Conduct. Judges must take cases as they find them, without appearance of bias or prejudgment. If the minimum wage is raised to $15, it is certain that the constitutionality of that legislation will be challenged in court. But generally, it is unworthy of a great or decent society to keep a portion of its fully employed citizens entrenched in poverty because they are simply not paid enough to make a living wage despite devoting full-time hours to their job.

18. I am not allowed to answer this question under the Code of Judicial Conduct. I am permitted to say that we need greater flexibility and reform of our sentencing laws, particularly as related to nonviolent offenses.

19. Do you support gun control legislation? Why or why not? I am not allowed to answer this question under the Code of Judicial Conduct, because gun specifications are a recurring part of every criminal court’s sentencing docket, and because the constitutionality of gun control legislation regularly appears before the courts. Judges and judicial candidates are prohibited from answering this type of recurring public policy challenge to avoid the appearance of bias or prejudgment, and in recognition that courts are required to take such cases on their specific facts and merits. That said, I am allowed to observe that the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly acknowledged that carefully crafted gun control measures are permissible as an appropriate state and public interest, and notwithstanding the general language of the Second Amendment.
1. Yes. I support the LGBTQIA+ Community. I am an ally member of Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio. My family and I make it a policy not to patronize businesses known to actively discriminate against anyone, including members of the LGBTQIA+ Community. My wife Ruth and I are teaching our daughters about the diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity. As the product of suburban America in the 1970s and 1980s, I am always checking against any implicit biases that might still be present in my own thinking.

2. As a judge, it will be 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 my court.

3. I believe the three most preventable threats to the health of LGBTQIA+ youth across the nation are bullying, family rejection, and homelessness.

4. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

5. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

6. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

7. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

8. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

9. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

10. 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. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

12. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

13. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

14. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

15. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

16. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

17. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

18. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

19. The Ohio Code of Judicial Ethics prevents me from providing a substantive response to this question.

**Jenifer French**

1. Yes, I do support the LGBTQIA+ community. I actually had a sentencing yesterday with a young man who is part of the LGBTQIA+ community who had been bullied by his peers in high school due to his sexual orientation which led him, in part, to commit the crime that he did. Al-
though there was a presumption of prison for his actions, I considered the things he had been through and did not send him to prison, but rather ordered probation with mental health treatment so that he could hopefully resolve the hurt and pain that he had been through.

2. As a judge, my job is to ensure that everyone that appears in front of me is treated equally and that their rights are protected. I do this on a daily basis and my previous answer is an example of this.

3. I believe that homelessness, discrimination, and violence are the three critical issues impacting the LGBTQIA+ youth at this time.

4. If the problem is the result of parents kicking their children out of the house because of their sexual orientation, I believe that educating the parents regarding this issue would be beneficial. However, there also need to be safe houses for these young men and women. Much like domestic violence victims have CHOICES and other shelters to provide them with safety and resources, our LGBTQIA+ youth need this, as well.

5. Due to the Judicial Cannons, I cannot respond to this question.

6. I believe this comes down to educating the community and ensuring that these individuals are not discriminated or retaliated against due to their sexual orientation. I know that in our house, my three children are taught that people love who they love and everyone is equal. We have several family members that are part of the LGBQTIA+ community and we fully support them.

7. Due to the Judicial Cannons, I cannot respond to this question.

8. Due to the Judicial Cannons, I cannot respond to this question.

9. Due to the Judicial Cannons, I cannot respond to this question.

10. I define social justice as everyone deserving equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities. I believe that the doors should be open to everyone, and then it is up to that individual, to walk through them.

11. As a judge, my job would be to enforce the laws that exist against this type of behavior.

12. Due to the Judicial Cannons, I cannot respond to this question.
1. Yes. I have been endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of Central of Central Ohio in all of my elections, 2011, 2014 and most recently 2020.

2. As a sitting Common Pleas Judge, I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United State and Ohio Constitution and the rights conferred thereunder. I treat every person, organization(s) and/or litigant who appears before me with equality, dignity and respect.

3. COVID 19 and Healthcare, jobs and the economy, and discrimination

4. Increase community support, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling and job related training/counseling (i.e. Apprenticeship programs).

5. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule2.10(B) sand Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

6. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule2.10(B) sand Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

7. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule2.10(B) sand Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.
8. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

9. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

10. The Franklin County Court of Common Pleas is lucky to have a diverse bench with eight female judges and three judges of color. I think more would be better. Having diverse points of view and opinions helps the court to grow. To solve this problem, we need to encourage more people, including members of the LGBTQIA+, to enter the legal field.

11. As a sitting Common Pleas Judge, I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United State and Ohio Constitution and the rights conferred thereunder. I treat every person, organization(s) and/or litigant who appears before me with equality, dignity and respect.

12. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

13. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

14. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

15. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

16. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

17. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

18. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.

19. As a sitting Judge, I am unable to provide any official comment or make any statement which would violate Rule 2.10(B) and Rules 4.1(5), (6) and (7) of the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct.
1. I have been a strong LGBTQIA+ supporter, going back to my years as a student employee for Ohio State. I was trained to be an ally and learned techniques with how to talk with students who had questions about coming out, transitioning, and to protect and support them from discrimination by other students. As a judge, I have presided over a same sex marriage after the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Obergefell. Additionally, I am grateful to be endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio, both in 2014 and this election cycle.

2. My judicial philosophy is to treat every person appearing in my court as a fully developed individual. I believe it is important to understand the individual involved in each case, to understand their needs, issues, and develop a plan tailored to that person with all available resources.

3. Homelessness, lack of resources, and discrimination in both the public and private sectors.

4. Homelessness and lack of stable housing is one of the main issues I see as a judge in trying to craft offender-specific programming for individuals with drug and alcohol and mental health issues. I believe we need more resources from the city, county, and statewide level to assist people living with a stable residence.

5. Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 1.2 and 4.1(A)(5) prevent me from answering the question posed.

6. As an assistant prosecuting attorney, I worked in the special victims unit, prosecuting sexual assault and domestic violence offenses. In my experience, I have personally witnessed how the effects of violence drastically alter the lives of the victim and their family members. I strongly believe we need to expand legal protections for victims of violence, especially our most vulnerable members, such as gender non-conforming and transgender individuals.


9. Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 1.2 and 4.1(A)(5) prevent me from answering the ques-
10. Social justice involves not only treating all citizens equally, but acknowledging past and ongoing injustices, and promoting policies that go beyond leveling the playing field. Beyond that, Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 1.2 and 4.1(A)(5) prevent me from answering the question posed.


12. Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 1.2 and 4.1(A)(5) prevent me from answering the question posed. I will note that I refused to screen with the Fraternal Order of Police, Capital City Lodge No. 9, until certain reforms were enacted.


17. Generally speaking, I believe it is good public policy to reduce income inequality. A strong middle class is the backbone of American prosperity. Beyond that, Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 1.2 and 4.1(A)(5) prevent me from answering the question posed.

18. I was one of the only judges in Ohio who publicly supported Issue 1 in 2018, which would have decriminalized certain drug possession offenses, and allowed for greater expungement of those offenses. Beyond that, Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 1.2 and 4.1(A)(5) prevent me from answering the question posed.

1. Absolutely, I am fully committed to promoting, supporting, and embracing the LGBTQIA+ community. Throughout my career as a 26-year public defender, I have represented members of the LGBTQIA+ community and helped them receive equal protection in the courtroom. Also, in my private life, I have always supported family members and friends within the LGBTQIA+ community and consider myself a strong ally.

2. As a Judge in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, I will be able to ensure that members of the LGBTQIA+ community are treated fairly and with respect whenever they appear in the courtroom, in whatever capacity they may appear. It is particularly important that when members of the LGBTQIA+ community are victims of crime that they receive empathy and compassion and are treated with respect and not discounted.

3. I believe that homelessness, health care, and mental-health care are three significant issues facing this community, particularly the young people who have been expelled from their homes and families. Proper health care and mental health care are critical to deal with the depression and anxiety that can come from being rejected by family and friends, being bullied, and having to face society’s ignorance and lack of acceptance.

4. While I am not running for a position that makes legislation or policy, I can suggest that all allies get involved and support programming for these homeless youth, donating critical supplies, supporting new housing opportunities, and remaining vocal about how important this kind of support is.

5. While the Judicial Canons prohibit a judicial candidate from speaking specifically about legislation, I can say that I firmly believe in fair and equal treatment of all people.

6. As I mentioned above, as a judge is it important to make sure that LGBTQIA+ victims of crime are treated with dignity and respect and ensure that their lives are honored with the same level of reverence as any other victim. Of course, transgender women of color face the added level of potential discrimination based upon their skin color so particular attention must be paid to their cases.
7. While the Judicial Canons prohibit my speaking specifically about legislation, I can say that I believe that sexual orientation and gender identity are not things that can be “converted” nor, should there be a desire to “convert” them.

8. While the Judicial Canons prohibit my speaking about this Bill directly, I can say that I believe everyone should have access to quality physical and mental health treatment.

9. Again, the Judicial Canons prohibit me from speaking about specific pieces of legislation. But, I can say that I believe in equal opportunities for everyone.

10. One of the reasons I am running for judge is that I believe that social justice can be completely compatible with criminal justice. In fact, without social justice, there can be no real justice within the criminal system. Social justice in the state of Ohio means that everyone is treated with the same dignity and respect regardless of their race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or income level. They should also be given the same opportunities in education, employment, housing, and health care as the majority of society. And when they are not given those opportunities or treated with equality and fairness, they should have the ability to address those issues and be heard.

11. As a public defender, I have spent my life defending people from under-served and marginalized communities. Often, in my opinion, my clients were subject to mistreatment by the police. This is knowledge that I will take with me should I be elected to the bench.

12. While the Judicial Canons prohibit me from speaking directly about proposed police reforms, I believe that positive and professional police work should be encouraged and rewarded and that police misconduct must be dealt with.

13. Again, my position is not one where I would address this issue directly. However, I am a product of the public school system. My children attend public schools. And I believe that all public schools should be sufficiently funded so that all of our children receive an equal quality of education regardless of the neighborhood in which they live.

14. Again, I cannot address this issue directly; but, I believe schools in marginalized areas should be well funded and resourced.

15. While the Judicial Canons prohibit my addressing this from a legal perspective, I personally
believe inclusion should be honored in all spaces.

16. Again, the Judicial Canons prohibit my addressing this directly. But, I personally believe everyone should be afforded an opportunity to succeed.

17. Again, I cannot address this issue directly as a judicial candidate. However, I believe a living wage for everyone is critical to the success of our society.

18. I cannot, due to the Judicial Canons, address this issue directly. But, I believe that the decriminalization of certain substances is an option to be considered.

19. I cannot address this issue directly due to the Judicial Canons. But, I can say that gun violence is a serious issue in our country and needs to be dealt with.

Gina R. Russo

1. Yes, I support the LGBTQIA+ community. I regularly attend and support events supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and continuously educate myself and inform others on inclusivity of all people. I also work hard to ensure that everyone is treated equally under the law.

2. As a judge, I provide equal access to the court and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be heard. I am fair, impartial, empathetic and compassionate. I understand that it is my job to make important decisions that will impact many lives. Therefore, it is my responsibility to know those individuals, the community from which they come and the challenges, hardships, troubles, and issues they face. I will continue to treat everyone with dignity and respect and make sure everyone is treated equally under the law.

3. (1) Bullying and exposure to violence, (2) family rejection and homelessness, and (3) mental health and substance abuse issues.

4. In order to combat homelessness among the LGBTQIA+ young people, I would encourage a strong support system among family, friends, teachers, mentors and community members. We need more support and encouragement for our youth, particularly those that are struggling. We need more community outreach programs for victims of bullying and harassment and for those who have been rejected based upon their identity or beliefs. We need to provide more readily available mental health and substance abuse resources and treatment and access to educational or employment opportunities. Our community needs more information on the existing homeless
shelters and other resources available in Central Ohio. I volunteer at the Reeb Avenue Center, a community center that opened in 2015, and houses many community outreach organizations to address community needs, including, homelessness, job training, parent and family education, addiction, mental health and re-entry. I believe it is the responsibility of a judge to become aware of these community outreach programs and inform those coming before her of these available resources. I maintain a list of housing and employment opportunities for those in need. In addition, I believe there should be additional funding to establish more housing and other resources for those in need.

5. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing the specifics of HB 369, I am in favor of any policies that prohibit discrimination of any kind.

6. As a judge, my job is to ensure that justice is served in each and every case and that the community knows that any type of hate crime, or crime committed based upon race, religion, gender, identity, sexual orientation or any other basis, will not be tolerated.

7. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing HB 503 specifically, I am not in favor of any policy or practice that compromises human rights.

8. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing HB 513 specifically, I am not in favor of any policy or practice that compromises human rights.

9. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing the specifics of HB 527, I am not in favor of any policy that would discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, identity, sexual orientation or any other basis.
10. Social justice is the belief that each and every person is entitled to the same political, economic, and social rights and opportunities and that everyone is treated equally under the law. Understanding and upholding social justice allows for our communities to appreciate our diversity. In Ohio, as a judge, I provide equal access to justice and treat everyone equally under the law.

11. As a judge, I ensure that everyone is held accountable for their actions. From the initial stages of a criminal proceeding (i.e., investigation and arrest), through trial, I ensure that constitutional rights are protected and everyone is afforded a fair trial. In particular, I ensure that people are adequately represented, that motions to enforce constitutional rights and suppress certain evidence are thoroughly researched and analyzed, and that jurors pay attention to the evidence and apply the law as given to them. I ensure that our judicial system operates within the constitutional parameters as it was intended.

12. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing the issue of police reform specifically, I am generally in favor of any policies that encourage additional education, instruction, training and transparency.

13. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing the issue of school funding specifically, I direct your attention to a recent decision I issued on September 10, 2020, in the Case of Dayton City School Dist. Bd. of Ed., et al. v. State Bd. of Ed., 11 CVF 11809 (Franklin County Court of Common Pleas) (ordering equitable restitution to three public school districts after state deviated from statutory school funding formula). I am well-versed on the issues of school funding for public schools.

14. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing the issue of school funding specifically, I direct your attention to a recent decision I issued on September 10, 2020, in the Case of Dayton City School Dist. Bd. of Ed., et al. v. State Bd. of Ed., 11 CVF 11809 (Franklin County Court of Common Pleas) (ordering equitable restitution to three public school
districts after state deviated from statutory school funding formula). I believe that we need more youth programs in our community that focus specifically on mental health and emotional well-being. We need kids to know that they are loved and supported and to teach them how to be self-sufficient and self-reliant. We need to provide kids with educational and instructive programs that will provide them with a focus and a purpose, regardless of socioeconomic class.

15. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing the issue specifically, I direct your attention to a recent decision I issued on September 15, 2020, in the case of Upper Arlington City School Dist. Bd. of Educ. v. City of Upper Arlington Building Dept., 20 CVF 4102 (Franklin County Court of Common Pleas) (granting a variance to construct an elementary school with inclusive bathrooms).

16. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing affirmative action policies and programs specifically, I am in favor of any policies that encourage and promote equal treatment under the law.

17. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result. Generally, and without addressing affirmative action policies and programs specifically, I am in favor of any policies that encourage and promote equal treatment under the law.

18. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result.

19. As a Judge, I am prohibited by the judicial canons from commenting on issues that may come before me for consideration and resolution. While I cannot comment on these specific issues, I am a fair and impartial judge. I listen to the facts with an open-mind and apply the law. I work
hard to arrive at the appropriate and just result.

JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, DOMESTIC RELATIONS
TERM COMMEN. 01/03/2021
Lasheyl Stroud

1. Yes, I am supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community. My campaign for Judge of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations & Juvenile division has been endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio. As Lead Magistrate of the Domestic Relations & Juvenile Court I ensure that all who come before are treated fairly and equally.

2. In what ways will you work to advance and protect the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community? How can the office you’re seeking support that? If I elected, I will treat all who enter the courtroom with dignity and respect, and work to ensure that they received equal access to the law.

3. I believe that three of the most critical issues impacting young LGBTQIA+ youth in Ohio to be homelessness, social stigma, and bullying.

4. Due to judicial canons, I am prohibited from answering this question.

5. Due to judicial canons, I am prohibited from answering this question.

6. Due to judicial canons, I am prohibited from answering this question.

7. Due to judicial canons, I am prohibited from answering this question.

8. Due to judicial canons, I am prohibited from answering this question.

9. Due to judicial canons, I am prohibited from answering this question.

10. Social justice helps to ensure that all peoples receive equal opportunities and equal treatment. If social justice were embraced by Ohio, it would make our state more welcoming, economically robust, and inclusive.

11. Due to judicial canons, I am prohibited from answering this question.
Stephanie Hanna

Thank you for sending me this questionnaire and producing a voter guide. The restrictions on judicial candidates imposed by the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct prevent me from speaking about issues that are likely to come before the court. This prevents me from directly answering many of your questions. I want to offer a glimpse into me and my candidacy, however, so I hope offering the following information is helpful.

I support the LGBTQIA+ community and have worked over the years to learn how to become a better ally. I ran for judge in 2016 and, in all candor, was too nervous to participate in the Pride Parade for fear of what others may think if they saw me there. I have grown and evolved in many ways since that race. I have many LGBTQIA+ people in my life (family and friends), and have learned significantly through conversations with them about ways to be supportive (not just in words, but in actions as well) and increase my knowledge. This year, I was looking forward to proudly participating in the Pride Parade. Unfortunately, that wasn't able to happen with the pandemic, but I have been more intentional about being an ally and sharing my views on this topic.

I have committed that my staff and I will take anti-racism and implicit bias training twice per year. There has to be continuous education to learn to check our biases and make sure they don’t creep into our decision making.
I have served on the board of the YWCA Columbus and am familiar with many aspects of the homelessness situation in our community. We have to constantly be viewing this issue through the lens of the people we serve – so thinking through the problems that are specific to LGBTQIA+ people and having real dialogue around solutions.

There are going to be things impacting the LGBTQIA+ young people that come before me that I do not know about and have no prior experience with – I am relying on relationships that I am building to be resources that I can turn to when I need guidance. There are circumstances that I, as a non-LGBTQIA+ person, am not privy to, and I think collaboration and communication are critical to reaching fair and appropriate resolutions.

I envision having a quarterly round table with community leaders and want voices from all groups to be represented. I would greatly appreciate if Kaleidoscope Youth Center would consider being a part of that to ensure that the voices of LGBTQIA+ youth in our community are represented.

Thank you again for the opportunity to partner on this voter guide. I’m looking forward to a long relationship and working together in the future.

Stephanie Hanna
www.hannaforjudge.com
Stephanie Hanna is running for a newly created seat in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court.

JUDGE OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE
TERM COMMEN. 02/09/2021
Jeff Mackey

Because of ethical rules, I am prohibited from responding to questions 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19.

1. Yes. I am a member of the LGBTQIA community. I was a founding attorney volunteer for the Equitas Medical Name-Change clinic. This provides free legal advice to members of the transgender community (including youth) seeking Probate Court approval of name change applications.
I have been long-time member and supporter of Stonewall Columbus, Stonewall Democrats of Central Ohio, Kaleidoscope Youth Center, Human Rights Campaign, and Equality Ohio.

2. I will continue supporting the organizations listed in the previous question. The Franklin County Probate Court is perhaps the most visible Probate Court in Ohio. I want it to be a leader among Ohio Probate Courts in educating others in the rights of the LGBTQIA community. I am supportive of the effort to reverse Ohio’s position refusing to allow the transgender community to change their gender marker on birth certificates. Ohio is one of only two states that currently prohibit this.


4. The homeless issue in American affects not only the LGBTQIA community but also veterans, the mentally ill and the impoverished. I wish I had an answer to this issue but I don’t. Continued efforts to fund homeless shelters for the homeless youth would certainly help provide a safe place for these youth.

6. We need increased training of police to understand that transgender or gender non-conforming people deserve the same respect as other victims of crime. The investigations of these violent acts are crimes regardless of the status of the victims.

10. Equal justice under the law. The Courts are required to treat all people who come before them equally and fairly. Justice is blind is more than a slogan – it is a guarantee of fairness.

15. Yes. It has been proven to work and there is no downside to providing inclusive and affirming spaces in public schools. It has been done in business settings (bars and restaurants) successfully.

Thank you for allowing me to share my views on these important issues. - Jeff Mackey, Candidate for Judge of the Franklin County Probate Court
VII. BALLOT MEASURES

This Section is intended to inform voters of the measures that will be on the ballot come November 3, 2020.

**Issue 1, Electric Service Aggregation Program Measure**

A “yes” vote **supports** authorizing the city to establish an Electric Aggregation Program, which would allow the city to aggregate the retail electrical load of customers within the city’s boundaries, and allowing customers to opt-out of the program.

A “no” vote **opposes** authorizing the city to establish an Electric Aggregation Program.

**Issue 2, Civilian Police Review Board and Inspector General Charter Amendment**

A “yes” vote **supports** amending the city charter to create the Civilian Police Review Board with authority to launch and carry out investigations of alleged police misconduct, subpoena testimony and evidence during the investigations, make recommendations to the Division of Police, and appoint and manage the new position of Inspector General for the Division of Police.

A “no” vote **opposes** amending the city charter to create the Civilian Police Review Board with authority to launch and carry out investigations of alleged police misconduct, subpoena testimony and evidence during the investigations, make recommendations to the Division of Police, and appoint and manage the new position of Inspector General for the Division of Police.

**Issue 24, Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Tax Renewal and Increase**

A “yes” vote **supports** authorizing the county to renew and increase a tax to fund programs for mental health, alcohol, and drug addiction at a rate of $285 per $100,000 of assessed property value (an increase of $65 per $100,000 of assessed property value).

A “no” vote **opposes** authorizing the county to renew and increase a tax to fund programs for mental health, alcohol, and drug addiction, thereby allowing the tax to expire.
VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KYC would like to thank the Franklin County Board of Elections, Ballotpedia, and TransOhio for providing the information featured in this Voter Guide.

KYC would also like to personally thank all candidates who responded to our outreach and answered the crucial questions included in this Guide. It is key that, regardless of political affiliation, voters gain important insights into the positions of the candidates in which we elect. The decisions that politicians make locally, statewide, and federally make significant impacts on our daily lives. We sincerely thank the candidates who took the time to respond to our questionnaire. By doing so, you are doing a great service to Franklin County voters as well as our young people.

KYC additionally thanks the readers of this Voter Guide. Not only does your engagement show your devotion to safe and educated voting, but your passion and commitment to LGBTQIA+ young people in our community. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your continued, unrelenting support of those we serve.

Finally, and most importantly, KYC would like to acknowledge the reason for the Voter Guide: our young people. To them, our future leaders - thank you for existing as your most authentic selves, bringing life to the halls of our Center, and making our community so much more beautiful. The COVID-19 pandemic has kept us at a distance, but we hope this Voter Guide proves that we are continuing to fight for you from afar.