

# VOTERS' GUIDE, MAY 5, 2009

This voters' guide is a joint venture of the Record-Courier and the League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County.

It should be noted that the League does not endorse candidates or political parties.

The League material contained in this publication was assembled in the following manner:

Questions were selected by the League of Women Voters and addressed to the candidates. Word limits were placed on responses, and candidates were advised that their responses would be printed in accordance with space limitations. Only brief biographical information on unopposed candidates is printed to conserve space. Only the names and addresses of write-in candidates are included.

The League of Women Voters, in publishing this material, neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate quoted and cannot assume responsibility for the contents of any candidate's reply.

Candidates' responses have been published the way they were written including the grammar and spelling used in responding to the questionnaires.

Some responses were modified to meet the word limits. Information on ballot issues was in most cases provided by the governmental body placing the issues on the ballot.

We wish to thank the Record-Courier for offering this service.

We also wish to thank Director Glenda Enders, Deputy Director Lois Enlow, and the staff at the Portage County Board of Elections for their valuable assistance in compiling this material. The information contained in this publication may not be reproduced without consent of the League of Women Voters.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age, male or female.

The League is funded by members' dues and contributions from members and non-members. Donations are welcome.

Locally, voter information is available at the Portage County Board of Elections at (330) 297-3511 or at [www.co.portage.oh.us/election/](http://www.co.portage.oh.us/election/).

## League of Women Voters of Kent

[www.kentoh.lwvnet.org](http://www.kentoh.lwvnet.org)

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Vice President-Voter Service: Barbara Hipsman Springer

## League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County

Voter Service Chair: Sue Griffey, (330)562-8027

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO VOTERS

***The polls will NOT be open in Kent City for the May 5, 2009 primary/special election. All candidates for City Council are running unopposed so their names will not appear on the ballot. There are also NO issues for Kent City voters in this election.***

**THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT IN THE  
MAY 5, 2009 PRIMARY:**

**COUNCIL – WARD 1, RAVENNA CITY (Vote for 2)**

- Questions: 1. How do you propose to maintain or increase the city's revenue?  
2. What role should the Council play in trying to assist businesses in your  
community survive these tough economic times?*

**STEVEN R. BAILEY**

841 Mechanic Ave.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**Age:** 58

**Education:** Ravenna High School graduate.

**Occupation:** Full-time councilman

**Experience:** I am in my fourth year as Ward 1 councilman. I have not missed one regular council meeting since 2005.

**Answers:**

1. It is important for city council to work closely with the city administration to maintain a good working budget. In light of the severe economic recession, city council must do its due diligence in making sure that the residents tax dollars are not being wasted while continuing to provide good neighborhood services. I believe that city council should continue to review and adjust departmental fees to help offset department operational costs.
2. Council should support the administration in hiring an economic development director or partnering with Portage County in economic development. If there is any federal monies available for local economic development, the city should make every effort to obtain those dollars for our local businesses and industries.

**SHARON SPENCER**

131 N. Scranton St.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**Age:** 59

**Education:** Graduate of Crestwood High School - 1968

**Occupation:** Retired with 37 yrs. from Portage Co. Bd of Elections

**Experience:** Served on Portage Co. Democratic Central Comm. and represented the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as Democratic State Central Committee woman. Involved in county government for 37 yrs.

**Answers:**

1. At this time, increasing revenue would be difficult. It is necessary to examine the existing budget, from each department submitting a budget, with a fine tooth comb, removing all items not deemed a necessity. The hope here would be to not have to eliminate jobs. To increase the revenue, one would do so through new jobs. The best hope of this would be state or national programs of assistance (Stimulus, etc)
2. Council should assist as they can. They make sure that each business/company be made aware of every state grant or loan that might be available. The ties between the Chamber of Commerce and the city should be strong.

## **COUNCIL – WARD 1, RAVENNA CITY (Vote for 2)**

- Questions: 1. How do you propose to maintain or increase the city's revenue?  
2. What role should the Council play in trying to assist businesses in your community survive these tough economic times?*

### **MARY E. WILLETT**

260 Lincoln Ave.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**Age:** 58

**Education:** Honor Roll – G.E.D.

**Occupation:** House Keeper – I run my own Business

**Experience:** Listen to, and discuss—debate w/others over Political Subjects, issues. I love people—I work & play well w/others! I'm resourceful w/problem solving & money management.

#### **Answers:**

1. I do not feel it's wise to increase taxes unless we can offer extras in return.

Examples: (a) Most of us would gladly pay a little more for weekly trash pick-up.

(b) Some communities have programs where they'll supply the paint for owners to fix up their homes. This increases neighborhood pride, and tends to snowball to others. It also increases real estate values. It also means increased selling of building permits.

2. We need to lower the rents downtown and rebuild main st. stores. Council could work with the owners. It's better to have more renters for less, than less for more. It'll present a good "Business Picture" to prospective shop owners. We need to advertise our City's "pluses" and develop programs that will bring outsiders in to shop and explore our city. Can't beat that "Hometown Main St" image! More shoppers = business survival = city revenues. It's good for everyone!

**THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES ARE UNOPPOSED IN THE MAY 5, 2009  
PRIMARY AND THEIR NAMES WILL NOT BE ON THE BALLOT. ALL  
CANDIDATES' NAMES WILL BE ON THE BALLOT AT THE GENERAL  
ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009.**

**COUNCIL-AT-LARGE, RAVENNA CITY**

**JOSEPH BICA, JR.**

380 Linden Ave.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**Age:** 41

**Education:** Associate of Applied Science in Robotics/Integrated Manufacturing,  
Associate of Applied Science in Industrial Electricity, B.A. in Business Administration,  
Masters of Business Administration

**Occupation:** Vice President of Business Development, Applied Vision Corp., Akron,  
OH

**Experience:** Current Chair Utilities committee, Current Vice Chair City Council Finance  
committee, Budget Commission (appointed by Mayor in 2007)

**GENE BROWN**

340 Elm St.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**Education:** The University of Akron, Sales & Merchandising Degree.  
Ohio Chemical Dependency Professional Board: Chemical Dependency Counselor  
Assistant.

**Occupation:** Owen Corning Tech III Operator. Urban Ounce of Prevention—Chemical  
Dependency Counselor Assistant.

**Experience:** 20 y – Ravenna City, Chairmen Ravenna City Council Planning Comm.,  
Treasure of Portage County Democratic Party – 2000-2006, Democratic Central  
Executive Comm. 2000-2006, Ravenna Park and Recreation Board – Council Rep.

**AMY MICHAEL**

245 Madison St.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**KENNETH ROACH, SR.**

626 Cleveland Rd.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**COUNCIL – WARD 2, RAVENNA CITY**

**FRANK SEMAN**

357 N. Freedom St.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

## COUNCIL-AT-LARGE, STREETSBORO CITY

### PETE BUCZKOWSKI

9345 Root Dr.

Streetsboro, OH 44241

**Education:** College Graduate, Kent State University--Academy I & II, for Elected Officials, Management Services for Municipalities.

**Occupation:** Council at Large, School Custodian/Maintenance

**Experience:** Civil Service Commissioner 1-1/2 years, currently serving my 4<sup>th</sup> year of my 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> year term as Council at Large, 3-years as Council President. Worked in Industrial Mgmt, Human Resource Mgmt and Operated my own Service oriented Company.

### TIMOTHY J. CLAYPOOLE

10231 Gloucester Rd.

Streetsboro, OH 44241

**Age:** 30

**Education:** BA in Business Administration and History

**Occupation:** Financial Analyst in the Treasury Department of a Fortune 500 company

**Experience:** This is my first attempt at public office, but I have attended numerous council and committee meetings.

### CHUCK KOCISKO

1530 Pike Pkwy.

Streetsboro, OH 44241

### JAMES E. LUPTON

1570 Evergreen Dr.

Streetsboro, OH 44241

### JULIE SANDERS

9247 Briar Dr.

Streetsboro, OH 44241

**Education:** Associates Degrees in Bus. Admin. & Accounting

**Occupation:** Accounting, Quickbooks

**Experience:** Presently serving. Elected 2005.

### ARTHUR SCOTT

1306 Shawnee Trl.

Streetsboro, OH 44241

**FOR JUDGE OF MUNICIPAL COURT  
(Full term commencing January 1, 2010)**

**KEVIN T. POLAND**

524 E. Riddle Ave.  
Ravenna, OH 44266

**Age:** 48

**Party:** Democratic

**Education:** Kent State BBA '83. University of Akron J.D. '86

**Occupation:** Mayor—City of Ravenna, Private Law Practice

**Experience:** Ravenna Ward IV Councilman, 1987-91. Ravenna President City Council, '91-2005. Ravenna Mayor, 2006-Present. Portage County Prosecutor—Assistant Prosecutor, 11/86-12/87. Acting Judge over 10 years. Board of Trustees Portage/Geauga Juvenile Detention Center.

**TOMMIE JO MARSILIO**

10991 Wheeler Rd.  
Garrettsville, OH 44231

**Age:** 36

**Party:** Republican

**Education:** Youngstown State University, B.A., Capital Law School, J.D.

**Occupation:** Portage County Assistant Prosecutor

**Experience:** I have legal service with national, state, and county government. This includes a position with the state as a hearing officer deciding hundreds of claims. I have worked in private law practices based in Portage and Cuyahoga County.

**FOR JUDGE OF MUNICIPAL COURT  
(Full term commencing January 2, 2010)**

**MARK K. FANKHAUSER**

1421 River Trail Blvd.  
Kent, OH 44240

**Age:** 39

**Party:** Democratic

**Education:** Graduate: Ravenna High School, Kent State University, Akron School of Law

**Occupation:** Attorney in private practice for eleven years

**Experience:** Represented 1000's of clients in both Municipal and Common Pleas Courts. I have the ability, honesty and integrity to be a fair and just Judge while respecting the rights of all concerned.

**WILLIAM A. NOME**

623 Fairchild Ave.  
Kent, OH 44240

**Party:** Republican

**MAYOR, KENT CITY**

**RICK HAWKSLEY**

120 Portage St.  
Kent, OH 44240  
**Party:** Democratic

**COUNCIL-AT-LARGE (3 positions)**

**MICHAEL A. DELEONE**

530 Fairchild Ave.  
Kent, OH 44240  
**Party:** Democratic

**VIC HART**

354 W. Main St.  
Kent, OH 44240  
**Party:** Democratic

**ROBIN G. TURNER**

327 Dodge St.  
Kent, OH 44240  
**Age:** 53  
**Party:** Democratic  
**Education:** High School, 2 ½ yrs. college  
**Occupation:** Kent City Councilman at Large  
**Experience:** Involved in various community organization and activities.

**ISSUE # 1**

Portage County (General Health District)  
Additional Tax Levy for Current Expenses

AMOUNT: A 0.4 mill additional levy that would generate approximately \$1.1 million annually for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by Portage County Commissioners. With additional dollars, the Portage County Health Department would be able to provide residents with enhanced public health services. Currently the health department conducts many programs at state minimum. According to the Health Department, residents are at risk of losing local control of some programs.

**ISSUE #2**

Ravenna City

Income tax increase for operation and improvements of the water system

AMOUNT: An increase in the Income Tax rate of 25/100 of 1% effective January 1, 2010 that would generate over \$950,000 per year

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by Ravenna City Council. Issue 2 serves as a renewal of a current 0.25% income tax that was approved by the Ravenna voters in 1979, and is used exclusively for improvements and operations of the City's Water System. The tax will provide a source of funding for capital improvements, infrastructure projects, debt service, and operating costs as it has the past 30 years. The Finance Director reported that the tax has been an effective measure in keeping City water rates reasonable for residents and businesses alike.

**ISSUE #3**

Streetsboro City

Income tax increase

AMOUNT: An increase in the Income Tax rate from 1% to 2% that would generate approximately \$2.9 million annually. Effective upon passage and certification.

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by Streetsboro City Council. In conjunction with 5 Year Plans for departments, additional revenue generated from the proposed tax relief program will be used to continue providing essential services to City of Streetsboro residents and businesses, particularly in the areas of Police and Fire protection, emergency medical support, road repairs, and winter snow/ice removal. Proceeds also will be used towards capital improvement projects, the purchase of equipment, and for technological enhancements benefiting the City.

**ISSUE #4**

Windham Village

Additional tax levy for fire and emergency medical services

AMOUNT: A 2.0 mill additional levy that would generate approximately \$49,000 annually for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by Windham Village Council. The money will be used to provide fire and emergency medical rescue and ambulance services for the residents of the Village. The Village withdrew from the Windham Township Fire District and is no longer subject to that tax levy.

**ISSUE #5**

Brimfield Township

Additional tax levy for emergency medical service

AMOUNT: A 0.85 mill additional levy that would generate approximately \$188,000 annually for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by Brimfield Township Trustees. The Brimfield Fire Department last passed a levy for new money in 2004. That money was used to replace both EMS units and both cardiac monitors. Since that time, they have experienced a 43% increase in emergency calls due to growth in the Brimfield community. The majority of emergency calls are for EMS services. Funds from Issue 5 can only be used to provide EMS services. The Department can use the funds to ensure an adequate number of paramedics on duty to provide advanced STEMI cardiac care program 24/7. For additional information about STEMI cardiac care see [www.brimfieldohio.com](http://www.brimfieldohio.com).

**ISSUE #6**

Edinburg Township

Renewal tax levy for fire protection

AMOUNT: A 2.0 mill renewal levy that would generate approximately \$76,000 annually for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by the Edinburg Township Trustees. The money would be used to provide training and manpower for fire and rescue and to maintain the equipment, vehicles and facility.

**ISSUE #7**

Aurora City School District

Renewal tax levy for general permanent improvements

AMOUNT: A 1.5 mill renewal levy that would generate approximately \$695,000 annually for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by Aurora City School Board. The money will be used for the purpose of general permanent improvements within the Aurora City School District. This includes capital items with a life expectancy of 5 years or more. Approximately two-thirds of the annually generated money goes toward the payment of the Leighton Elementary School bonds.

**ISSUE #8**

Summit Co. Overlap

Tallmadge City School District (Brimfield E)

Additional tax levy

AMOUNT: A 6.9 mill additional levy that would generate approximately \$2,867,000 for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

EXPLANATION: Placed on the ballot by Tallmadge City School Board. This is an operating levy. Therefore the monies will be used for day to day operations of the district.

**ISSUE #9**

Mantua-Shalersville Fire District

Renewal tax levy

AMOUNT: A 0.9 mill renewal levy that would generate approximately \$159,000 annually for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

EXPLANATION: The money from this Capital Equipment renewal levy is the only source of income for equipment. This levy allows the purchase of protective clothing for firefighters, medical equipment, rescue equipment and the purchase of firefighting and emergency medical vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks.