

2010 VOTER'S GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ATHENS COUNTY

The League of Women Voters of Athens County is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through active, informed participation of all citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. This guide lists only those candidates who are running in contested races in this election. Questions and word limits are set by the League. Information is printed as submitted. According to the guidelines of The League of Women Voters, the League does not alter, edit or correct candidates' responses to questions. Candidates were instructed to this effect, and that any words over limits stated may not be printed. Each candidate is solely responsible for the accuracy of his/her statements. A candidate's answers are printed with the understanding that the material will not be used in any way that may be deemed to be an endorsement by the League of his or her candidacy or views.

LWVAC has posted candidate and issue information and additional candidate questions and answers at: www.athensvotes.org

Election Day is Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

To find your polling place phone the Board of Elections at 740-592-3201 or visit: athensboardofelections.com

Representative 18th Congressional District/Republican		
Question	Question 1. How would you address climate change while preserving American jobs?	
Hombre Liggett	I have advocated for years that there is no man made global warming problem. Any government that passes legislation restraining their economic or energy development and sustainability is making a mistake. Although, we should always look for common sense ways to produce more efficient forms of energy, and work to keep the environment safe and clean, Congress should not pass climate-change legislation, and the EPA should be inhibited from doing the same. The Federal Government must get out of the way of energy exploration, development, mining and refining. Changing this would allow those industries to create more jobs.	
Jeanette Moll	I don't see Global warming or climate change as an emergency priority. Rather, I see, as a priority, that our nation needs a comprehensive energy policy that involves using all of the natural resources we have available including coal, oil, and natural gas. Unfortunately, some have sought to tax sources of energy as contained in the currently pending Cap and Trade legislation that has passed in the House of Representatives, and I oppose instituting a new system of energy taxes. Furthermore, I don't believe that the EPA should not use regulations to circumvent the legislative process.	
Michael D. Royer	I do not believe in manmade climate change. The recent revelations of the climate gate emails confirm that the United Nations and environmentalist groups have misled us on the realities of true climate change which is a result of the sun's solar activity.	
Bob Gibbs	With the recent reports that the data used regarding climate change that data was based on faulty, biased and unsubstantiated science, it is clear that science has not been able to document what is happening and if human activity is causing a problem or not. Many scientists are on both sides of this issue and the proponents of climate change have not substantiated their findings based on sound science. I do not support the cap and trade proposal, this will kill jobs, increase energy costs and add costs to products made here and will severely hurt our economy.	
Fred Dailey	I would not vote for "Cap and Trade"! If enacted, this legislation will not only put our coal miners out of work in southeastern Ohio, but would greatly increase our energy costs and drive our energy intensive manufacturing industries off shore. We have always had climate change. We still need to be good stewards of our natural resources, but the polar bears are going to be just fine.	
Question	2. What steps do you propose to strengthen the U.S. economy?	
Hombre Liggett	We need to decrease personal and corporate taxes, size of government, Federal spending, and regulation. The Federal Government protects our free-market by getting out of the way. We must lower corporate taxes to create an attractive environment for new businesses and draw companies back to America. Out of control legislation that aggressively infringes on American companies must be stopped. Business owners are in gridlock from fear of not knowing what the Government will do next. It is not the responsibility of Government to create jobs. The Government should protect the market's integrity so business owners and entrepreneurs can create jobs.	
Jeanette Moll	The government needs to get out of the way of economic growth and stop creating uncertainty in the marketplace. Cap and Trade, as passed by the House, and the government takeover of healthcare have caused, and will continue to cause, companies to scale back in preparation for large tax increases and other governmental burdens. Reducing the size of government, lowering taxes and reducing regulations will enable small businesses to create jobs. 80 percent of new jobs are created by small businesspeople and we must have leaders who understand how to create a business friendly environment for economic prosperity.	
Michael D. Royer	In order to strengthen the U.S. economy it is important to repeal the NAFTA/GATT agreements. We must look at imposing trade tariffs on foreign goods to foster American jobs and industry. We must also call for an audit of the Federal Reserve Bank and a return to strict regulations in the banking industry. We must also lower the tax burden for all businesses and also for the private citizen.	
Bob Gibbs	Get Federal spending under control, cut the borrowing and deficit spending, cut taxes, and reign in bureaucratic red tape. Stop initiatives like cap and trade and repeal/reform healthcare. This will send clear signals to the private sector that Federal policy has reversed itself and our economy is heading back on solid ground. Currently all the uncertainty regarding taxes, interest rates, energy costs etc., has created a climate where businesses are hunkering down and not investing to grow their businesses but taking a more wait and see attitude. Businesses will have confidence once again to invest and create jobs.	
Fred Dailey	The U.S. should do like drunken sailors: when you run out of money, quit spending! The U.S. will see hyperinflation, devaluation of the dollar, and poor credit ratings if Congress doesn't develop sound fiscal policy soon. Congressmen need to learn to say "No!" We are on the verge of bankrupting our country with operating deficits and entitlement programs that are not actuarially sound. It is also a national security issue. To be a really strong country we must be financially sound. We must learn to accept personal responsibility for our lives.	

No response received: Beau Bromberg, Dave Daubenmire, Ron Hood

Representative 6th Congressional District/Democratic

No response received: Jim Renner, Charlie Wilson

No response received: Jim Renner, Charlle Wilson	
Representative 6th Congressional District/Republican	
Question 1. How would you address climate change while preserving American jobs?	
Donald K.	I believe the current hysteria over global warming is more of a scam for personal enrichment than an actual threat. There is a natural cooling/warming
Allen	weather cycle that has always been present. In my opinion, man's contribution to the effect or changes of that cycle are minimal at best.
	Nevertheless, we must strive to develop and discover renewable sources of energy for our future. In the meantime, we must use ALL of our energy
Bill Johnson	resources that we now have available – coal, petroleum, natural gas, nuclear. Cap and Trade will destroy jobs and we must not let this bill be passed.
Bill Johnson	The Cap & Trade bill is bad—for our region and for America. It's rushed vote in the House could result in higher consumer costs and lost jobs. Ohio will lose over \$700 Million in business revenue. Experts predict that it'll raise the average cost of utilities by \$1,100/yr for families across Ohio. Research
	into alternative forms of energy (and production) should be fostered, but that research requires private investment and years to develop. America has
	its own natural energy resources that we should be using. We must reduce our dependence on foreign oil, meanwhile Ohio families shouldn't be
	penalized.
Richard D.	The earth is a precious resource that we must respect and preserve for future generations. We must do everything we can to protect the earth, while
Stobbs	at the same time allowing our economy to flourish. We must understand that this problem cannot be solved overnight. Therefore, we need a long term
	plan rather than a short term solution. We can solve this problem while at the same time strengthening our economy. We must become energy
	independent by using our own resources, while exploring clean technology such as nuclear and hydrogen power, until better technologies are available
	in the future.
	What steps do you propose to strengthen the U.S. economy?
Donald K.	Passage of The Fair Tax would eliminate personal, business, and corporate income tax and repeal the 16th Amendment. With regained control of our
Allen	own money, we would see unprecedented growth in our national economy through reinvestment of corporate money into research and development,
	expansion, and hiring of workers. Individuals would have the ability to pay debts, save, and buy what they need with their regained earnings. I would
	do everything I can to relieve government burdens on small businesses, which are cornerstones of every community's economy, and restrict authority
Bill Johnson	of the EPA, OSHA, MSHA, USDA, and other federal agencies. Three steps to strengthen US economy: 1) Jobs: The stimulus programs have failed us, and unemployment has nearly doubled in the district during
Dili Johnson	Charlie Wilson's term; 2) Spur Small Business Growth & Innovation: I'll work with small business owners to stop the federal government from
	burdening them with unfunded mandates and protect them from unfair competition. 3) Curb Government Spending & Lower Taxes: The federal
	government should be walking along side small businesses, not putting up roadblocks
Richard D.	My plan to strengthen the economy is simple. We need to allow people to keep more of the money they earn and give tax incentives to businesses that
Stobbs	bring or keep their company here in America. Moreover, we need to help people become self sufficient through a better education. This will help
	reduce dependence on the government and give millions of American a chance to succeed. I believe you can fish for a man and feed him for a day, or
	teach him how to fish and feed him for a lifetime

	Athens County Commissioner/Democratic	
Questio	Question 1. What can be done to make county government more responsive to the public?	
Miki Brooks	Take the meetings to the people. Once a month hold the commissioners meeting in a local community, rotating throughout the communities. Plan the rotation and publish the locations a year ahead with a monthly reminder being publically posted prior to the meeting. Initiate "listening tours", going into the communities making it more convenient for people to talk to their elected officials. Maintain a user friendly website.	
Lenny Eliason	It is important to be responsive to the public. As commissioner's we work with the other elected officials, boards and department heads to solve problems that the citizens of Athens County have with the various offices as they arise. We have a web site that helps provide information to the people over the internet. Continued education of the public as to the responsibilities and requirements of county government is important as well. We have held town hall meetings and hold informational meetings as capital improvement projects such as water and sewer improvements to inform and get feedback from the public.	
Question 2. Do you believe funding for the sheriff's office is adequate or not? If not, how would you increase the funding?		
Miki	It would appear that the either the funding for the sheriff's office is adequate or Sheriff Kelly knows how to stretch a dollar. The presence of the sheriff's	
Brooks	office within my local community is greater today than I can ever remember. Sheriff Kelly is initiating new positive programs. Before increasing the funding, I would work with Sheriff Kelly to see what could be done to stay within in the budget.	
Lenny	Having enough funding for the Sheriff's Office is important. Working efficiently and effectively we have increased the Sheriff's funding and funding for	
Eliason	related public safety activities to a greater portion of the general fund budget than when I was first elected. Given the limited resources of the County if	
	increases are made in one department then cuts will have to be made in others unless you raise taxes for more revenues. The voters have told us no to an increase in the sales tax so I am committed to working within that budget.	

	U.S. Senate/Democratic	
Question	Question: Should the U.S. go further into debt if it would hasten economic recovery? Please explain.	
Jennifer	The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been major contributors to our growing national deficit. Much gain at American taxpayer expense has been for	
Bruner	private contractors, both domestic and foreign, contributing to further instability in the very countries in which the U.S. seeks to bring stability and thwart terrorist activity. At a point where we have paid for two wars with debt and now have bailed out large banks and financial institutions that continue to show profits and pay out large executive bonuses, there is a call for deficit reduction focused on curbing "entitlements." Likely targets are Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and unemployment compensation. We must proceed carefully without compounding problems. Reforming health care will lower the national deficit over time. Providing health care and access to credit for small businesses to grow the economy and reduce the national deficit. Deficit reduction should occur over time according to a plan.	
Lee Fisher	I believe that Government has to live within its means while investing in what matters. We proved this is possible on the State level by passing the slowest growth budget in 42 years while making targeted investments in higher education and the clean energy jobs and businesses of the future. We can do the same thing on the federal level by having a job creation tax cut, which would encourage businesses to create new jobs right here in Ohio, while tearing down the incentives for corporations who ship jobs overseas.	
	national deficit. Deficit reduction should occur over time according to a plan. I believe that Government has to live within its means while investing in what matters. We proved this is possible on the State level by passing the slowest growth budget in 42 years while making targeted investments in higher education and the clean energy jobs and businesses of the future. We can do the same thing on the federal level by having a job creation tax cut, which would encourage businesses to create new jobs right here in Ohio,	

No response received: Charlena Renee Bradley, Traci Johnson

Attorney General/Republican	
Question: What will be your primary focus as Attorney General?	
Mike	Overhauling the state's crime lab, the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation to dramatically decrease the evidence testing and analysis
DeWine	backlog; creating a business climate in Ohio that encourages the creation and growth of jobs in Ohio; cleaning up corruption at all levels of Ohio
	government.

No response received: Steve Christopher

Auditor of State/Republican	
Question: How would you help local and state government agencies deal with the fiscal challenges they are facing today?	
Seth A.	As Auditor of State, I will focus on running as efficient an office as possible. Local governments are tasked with paying for the audit the Auditor of State
Morgan	produces. As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who has focused his professional career on providing value to actual businesses with financial services,
	I understand the importance of providing a quality product while minimizing costs. Focusing on internal efficiencies and allowing private firms to
	compete to do the audits under the Auditor of State's quality control will help to minimize the cost to those local governments.
	Additionally, the Auditor of State's performance audit division is a powerful resource to help local and state government agencies provide more efficient
	services to the taxpayers. As Auditor of State, this will be an area of value-added focus for my administration. While historical audits focus on the past,
	performance audits can help governments work on their futures.

No response received: Dave Yost

Secretary of State/Republican	
Question: How will you insure fair, honest, and impartial election administration in Ohio?	
Sandra	As Chief Elections Officer my goal will be to protect the integrity and security of the election process from voter registration to casting of votes to
O'Brien	counting of ballots. Ohio election law is governed by the Ohio Revised Code. I intend to make sure that such laws are enforced. Ohio's election process is
	carried out at the county level on a bipartisan basis. As Secretary of State I intend to give all 88 local Boards of Elections the support necessary to ensure
	fair elections.

No response received: Jon Husted

	Chief Justice, Ohio Supreme Court Term beginning January 1, 2011	
Question:	Question: Would you favor a system of performance evaluation for Supreme Court Justices with the results provided to the	
public? If no, why not? If yes, what are important criteria to include in the evaluation?		
Eric Brown	I favor and support the right of any individual or group interested in the court to evaluate the performance of the court and each of the justices. Constructive evaluation and feedback can be used to improve performance. Each person or group that wishes to provide evaluation should be free to establish their own criteria, provided the criteria are fully and fairly disclosed. Each such evaluation should fairly disclose the identity of the evaluator and the purpose of the evaluation.	
Maureen O'Connor	Yes. It is important to observe the work of any court esp. the Ohio Sup. Ct. This can be done by accessing our website to observe oral arguments. I believe that a justice should be judged by opinions authored and the timeliness of the process. Community involvement is also important. How a justice fulfills the role of a public servant is crucial in determining if the justice should be given the trust of the voters. A strong work ethic, integrity and honesty are benchmarks for the position. Because the chief justice is the face of the judiciary for the state, it is important that the chief be judged by how he or she works to improve the judiciary, the courts and the delivery of justice to our citizens. Most important is to consider fairness, lack of bias and independence.	

	Justice, Ohio Supreme Court Term beginning January 1, 2011	
Question:	Question: Would you favor a system of performance evaluation for Supreme Court Justices with the results provided to the	
public? If no, why not? If yes, what are important criteria to include in the evaluation?		
Judith Ann Lanzinger	Judges are elected on non-partisan ballots because they are expected to serve all Ohioans and not advance a particular political agenda. Because we currently elect our Supreme Court justices, a good performance evaluation would provide helpful information about the candidates in seven separate areas: 1. legal knowledge, particularly of state law; 2. length and breadth of previous judicial experience; 3. integrity and impartiality in handling cases with an open mind and without respect to the parties' identity; 4. communication, involving the ability to listen to oral arguments and write clear and logical opinions; 5. temperament, understanding that a justice is not almighty and must treat others with respect and dignity; 6. administrative ability, in prompt conclusion of assigned cases; 7. collegiality, for effective work with six other justices. Any performance evaluation should allow a candidate to respond to any negative statement, so that voters will have all appropriate information.	
Mary Jane Trapp	As an advocate for reform in the judicial selection process, I strongly support such evaluations because they not only are effective management tools, but they help voters cast an educated vote. The evaluations should focus on integrity, legal knowledge and skill in communicating the basis for a decision to not only lawyers and judges but the public, work-ethic, service to the community, bench and bar, and introspection as to personal bias and commitment to recusal to avoid the appearance of impropriety.	

For more information about

Candidates and State and Local Issues and for candidates' answers to several other questions, visit athensvotes.org