The League of Women Voters of Athens County is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through active, informed and participatory citizen awareness and education. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate for office. 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. The League of Women Voters of Athens County is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through active, informed and participatory citizen awareness and education. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate for office. 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.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ATHENS COUNTY**

**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

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**Representative 18th Congressional District/Republican**

**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 poses legislation retrimming their economic or energy development and sustainability is making a mistake.

**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 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 O. Royer**

The federal policies 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 scientists are only trying to to show that it if human activity is causing global climate change then 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 believe that climate change was a scam. It was not only not a problem, but it greatly increased our energy costs and drive our economy intensive manufacturing industries off shore. We should 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.

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**Representative 6th Congressional District/Democratic**

**Question 2. What steps do you propose to strengthen the U.S. economy?**

**Donald K. Allen**

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 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 resources that we now have available – coal, petroleum, natural gas, nuclear. 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 believes of healthcares have, 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.

**Bob Gibbs**

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**Michael O. 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 in the right direction. We must remove burdens on small businesses and keep our energy costs low. We need to cut government regulations and cut taxes for all businesses. We need to cut unemployment and keep our businesses competitive.

**Fred Dailey**

We need to decrease personal and corporate taxes, size of government, Federal spending, and regulation. We need to improve trade by eliminating trade barriers and removing trade restrictions. We need to reduce all barriers to trade and to create an environment such that businesses will be able to compete in the global marketplace.

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**Representative 6th Congressional District/Republican**

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Questions:

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 posted on our website.

Lenny Elisson

It is important to be responsive to the public. As commissioner we will 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 held informational meetings 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? If not, how would you increase the funding?

MiKi Brooks

It would appear that the sheriff’s office is well funded that the county as their budget is under control due to our measures to increase revenue and to cut costs. I believe that a thorough review of the budget would be necessary to ensure that all areas of the budget are being utilized fully. We can also explore the possibility of increasing the budget for the sheriff’s office through grants and other sources of revenue.

Lenny Elisson

Having enough funding for the Sheriff’s Office is important. Working efficiently and effectively we have increased the Sheriff’s funding and funding for related public safety activities to a greater portion of the general fund budget than I was first elected. I have increased the limited resources of the County if increases are made in one department then other departments cuts will have to be made in order unless you raise taxes for more revenues. The voters have told us to not an increase in the sales tax so I am committed to working within that budget.

U.S. Senate/Democratic

Question: Should the U.S. go further into debt if it would hasten economic recovery? Please explain.

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. As an advocate for reform in the judicial selection process, I strongly support such evaluations because the performance of our Supreme Court justices has a significant impact on the lives of Ohioans. These evaluations should focus on integrity, legal knowledge and skill in communicating the basis for a decision. Constructive evaluation and feedback can be used to improve performance. Each person or group that wishes to provide evaluation should be free to do so as long as they provide a balanced and fair evaluation.

Mike DeWine

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 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.

Mike 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 slowed 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 beating down the incentives for corporations who ship jobs overseas.

No response received:
- Charita Renee Bradley, Traci Johnson
- Seth A. DeWine
- Mike Fruehwirth
- Mary Jane Trapp

Attorney General/Republican

Question: What will be your primary focus as Attorney General?

Mike DeWine

Overhauling the state’s crime lab, the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation to dramatically decrease the evidence testing and analysis backlog; creating a business climate in Ohio that encourages the creation and growth of jobs in Ohio; cleaning up corruption at all levels of government.

Mike Lee Fisher

Continue to improve our web site to help provide legal information to the people as to how to meet their legal needs. We have a web site that helps provide information to the people over the internet. Continue education of the public as to the responsibilities and requirements of government. Education is a way of keeping the public informed and aware of how government operates.

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?

Arty Morgan

As an Auditor of State, I will focus on running an efficient office as possible. Our local governments are tasked with paying for the audit the Auditor of State produces. As a Certified Public Account (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 assure fair, honest, and impartial election administration in Ohio?

Sandra O’Brien

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Maureen O’Connor

Yes, it is important for the work that any court does in the Ohio Supreme Court to be done in an effective and efficient manner. We have a web site that helps provide information to the people over the internet. We have a web site that helps provide information to the people over the internet. We have a web site that helps provide information to the people over the internet. We have a web site that helps provide information to the people over the internet.

No response received: Jim Husted

Chief Justice, Ohio Supreme Court Term beginning January 1, 2011

Question: Would you favor a system of performance evaluation for the Supreme Court Justices with the results provided to the public? If not, why not? Is there are important criteria to include in the evaluation?

Eric Brown

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 role of 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.

Maureen O’Connor

I believe that the Ohio Supreme Court Justices should be evaluated on how well they perform their duties. The performance of the Justices affects the outcome of cases, the protection of individual rights, and the stability of the legal system. The evaluations should focus on integrity, legal knowledge and skill in communicating the basis for a decision.

No response received: Chief Justice

Justice, Ohio Supreme Court Term beginning January 1, 2011

Question: Would you favor a system of performance evaluation for Supreme Court Justices with the results provided to the public? If not, why not? Is there 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 regard to the parties’ identity; 4. communication, including the ability to listen to oral arguments and write 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 introduction 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**