



# 2010 VOTER'S GUIDE

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 (100 words, except where otherwise indicated) are set by the League. Space constraints have required reformatting some biographical information. 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 words over the limit may not be printed. Candidates are solely responsible for the accuracy of their 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.

**Election Day is Tuesday, November 2nd, 2010.**

To find your polling place phone the Board of Elections at 740-592-3201 or visit: [athensboardofelections.com](http://athensboardofelections.com)

## REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS – 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT (60-word limit set by Youngstown League of Women Voters)

Name	Richard E. Cadle	Martin J. Elsass	Bill Johnson	Charlie Wilson
<b>Party</b>	Constitution	Libertarian	Republican	Democratic
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired IT Director; Small business owner	Record Promotion & Management; Owner – Lead Mechanic	Chief Information Officer: Stoneridge, Inc.	Representative, OH-06 District
<b>Education</b>	Devry University	Assoc. Degree: Automotive & Diesel Technologies, 1994	B.S. Computer Science, 1979, Troy U; M.S. Computer Science, 1984, Georgia Tech	Ohio University; Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science
<b>Qualifications</b>	Navy veteran; small business owner	I am a United States citizen from birth. I reside in Ohio and I am 36 years of age. I collected and submitted the number of signatures required by Ohio. I have never sought public office.	As farmer, military veteran and businessman, the values of hard work, honesty, and sacrifice prepared Bill Johnson to lead and to tackle problems like out of control spending and spiraling unemployment.	Political Experience: Representative, United States House of Representatives 2006-present; Senator, Ohio State Senate, 2004-2006; Representative, Ohio State House of Representatives, 1996-2004 (Minority Whip – 1998-2000, Asst Minority Leader, 2000-2002); Professional Experience: President, Wilson Funeral and Furniture Company Incorporated, 1966-2006; Welder ( <i>word limit exceeded</i> )
<b>What is the role of the federal government in regulating the private sector?</b>	The Federal government has exceeded its authority in the private sector. The bailouts of financial institutions, the favoritism of big unions over the bondholders of Chrysler, and the massive spending and deficit are examples of excessive regulation and interference by the Federal government.	According to the 10 <sup>th</sup> amendment the federal government is supposed to play a very limited role in regulating the private sector. I would like to roll back the presence government plays in the daily operations of business. I believe the free market is a much better guide for what the people want, verses what some Washington bureaucracy thinks they need.	Growing the economy requires dedication to traditional American economic values. We must remove barriers so that small business owners can do what they do best—create jobs. We must innovate and complete in the global economy. We must create wealth, not distribute it. And we must reduce taxes. The free market works best with limited government intrusion.	I believe the government should have two main roles in working with the private sector: helping businesses to grow and making sure that consumers and workers are protected in the process. The private sector should be allowed to thrive without excessive regulation, but, in some industries, some regulations are necessary to protect consumers and employees from financial or physical harm.

## REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS – 18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

Name	Bob Gibbs	Zack Space	Lindsey D. Sutton
<b>Party</b>	Republican	Democratic	Constitution
<b>Education, Occupation, and Pertinent Experience</b>	Graduate of The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute – 1974 Self-employed farmer and small businessman since 1978, State Representative 2003-2008, State Senator 2009-present. Former President of the Ohio Farm Bureau and Loudonville Farmer's Equity, Inc. Past supervisor of the Holmes County Soil and Water Conservation District.	Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Kenyon College, 1983 Juris Doctor, Ohio State College of Law, 1986 Attorney, Dover Law Director (2001-2006), U.S. Representative (2007-present)	Formal Education: 12 Former Occupations: Enlisted member of the United States Air Force 20 years - Truck Driver 6 years - Contractor Janitor 5 years - Currently retired Pertinent experience: Twenty years of supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States
<b>What is the role of the federal government in regulating the private sector?</b>	I strongly support our free market capitalist system which has encouraged innovation, risk-taking, and provided opportunities and a high standard of living historically. Some regulations are necessary to provide a fair playing field, regulations should not be burdensome, hinder economic growth and job creation, but provide commonsense that allow for entrepreneurship and economic growth while protecting our common interests. Initiatives from Washington are creating burdensome regulations and adding costs to do business. These policies are creating uncertainty and eroding confidence that is stifling investment and job creation, which led to unemployment doubling in the 18th in the last four years.	I believe the strength of America lies in our middle class and working families, and the federal government has a responsibility first and foremost to stand up for these folks. For example, the federal government needs to start cracking down on corporations who are picking up and moving Ohio's jobs overseas because of so-called free trade "deals" like NAFTA. It is absolutely unconscionable that these huge corporations should get tax breaks to ship our jobs to China and Mexico, and I'm fighting every day to end that practice. Congress can do better for our working families, and Ohioans deserve better.	The role of the Federal Government in regulating the private sector is found in Article I, Sec, 8, Par, 3 of the Constitution: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes;" The intent of this clause is for the Federal Government to establish uniform rules concerning commerce in lieu of a patchwork of regulations by the States. It is not to restrict commerce, but to keep commerce "regular" and flowing in much the same way as laws governing freeways regulate the flow of traffic.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE – 92<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

Name	Ty Collinworth	Michael J. Hunter	Debbie Phillips
<b>Party</b>	Green	Republican	Democratic
<b>Education, Occupation, and Pertinent Experience</b>	No Response Received	Bachelor Business Administration – Management – AIU; 90th Administrative Officers Course – Southern Police Institute; 99th Academy Class Ohio State Highway Patrol Retired Highway Patrol Lieutenant – Post Commander (Toledo, Swanton, Xenia, Wilmington, Athens); Acting Chief of Police in Nelsonville – 2007-2008; Post Hurricane Ike security and clean up; Elder Presbyterian Church – Chair of Finance	I am a graduate of Ohio University, and am currently serving my first term in the Ohio House. I serve as Vice-Chair of the Alternative Energy committee, and also serve on the Education, Health, Economic Development, and Insurance committees. Previously, I served on Athens City Council, and Chaired the Planning and Development Committee. I am a trained mediator, and believe in working proactively for solutions that work for our region. I

		Committee (Xenia) & Outreach/Mission (Athens); 3 labor mission trips to Honduras – Montana de Luz – a home for children with HIV; Member & Past President Kiwanis Club of Downtown Athens; National member SPI Alumni Association and past V-P Ohio Chapter SPI; Police policy consultant and investigator, driving instructor	have held more than 50 roundtable discussions and town hall meetings since taking office, because it's important to me to hear from local people about their concerns and priorities.
<b>How will you encourage Ohio manufacturing in a clean energy economy? What other ideas do you have to stimulate the economy and create jobs?</b>		This is a not a "clean energy" economy. 85% of all US electricity is generated with fossil fuel. Even the new AMP Ohio facility will be fueled by natural gas. Manufacturing is attracted by infrastructure, markets, reasonable regulation, educated citizenry and cheap energy. Ohio is striving to use clean coal technology to remain competitive while developing alternative energy. By balancing regulation, reducing spending so that we can lower taxes, and by helping retrain the displaced unskilled labor for the skilled jobs needed by industry, we will attract manufacturers, business and the resulting jobs.	I have already sponsored several bills that support clean energy technologies, including one that provides tax breaks for wind and solar projects. In addition to the estimated 32,000 new manufacturing jobs that could be created in the energy sector, I believe we have to work to support small businesses and entrepreneurship. Small businesses create a diversified and healthy local economy, and I supported regulatory reform to help make it easier for small businesses to form and remain in Ohio. I will continue to work with state and local officials, and individuals in our region to create a strong local economy.
<b>If it is necessary to address the \$8 billion state deficit by cutting the budget, what programs would you cut? Do you believe the deficit can be significantly reduced through spending cuts alone, or do we need to raise revenue?</b>		Ohio has consistently raised revenue with taxes and fees even with fewer taxpayers to foot the bill. The legislature added 147 new fees this year to generate over \$1 billion to spend. We add program after new program and continually raise spending. First of all, that has to stop. Secondly, we have to decide on a prioritized list of what we expect government to do. At that point we begin the cuts of non-essential services. Ohio's governments should be doing those things that citizens cannot do for themselves and let citizens, non-profits or private business do the rest.	I believe that our next budget will require a balanced approach. The House and Senate have already begun work on the next budget, in order to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges we face, and to hear recommendations. Several organizations have offered thoughtful suggestions, including the Ohio Society of CPAs <a href="http://ohioscpa.com/GovernmentalAffairs/IssueMonitoring/BudgetCrisis.aspx">http://ohioscpa.com/GovernmentalAffairs/IssueMonitoring/BudgetCrisis.aspx</a> and the Center for Community Solutions <a href="http://www.communitysolutions.com/key_issues/state_budget_and_fiscal_policy.aspx">http://www.communitysolutions.com/key_issues/state_budget_and_fiscal_policy.aspx</a> . These recommendations have been helpful to me as we consider responsible solutions to our budget difficulties. The Budget Planning and Management Commission wants to hear recommendations. If you have suggestions for the legislature, we would love to hear from you: <a href="https://bpmc.legislature.state.oh.us/">https://bpmc.legislature.state.oh.us/</a> .

**ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Lenny Eliason</b>	<b>Matt Gaiser</b>
<b>Party</b>	Democratic	Republican
<b>Education, Occupation, and Pertinent Experience</b>	MPA Ohio University – 2002, Commissioner since August 1998; Trained Mediator; Past President County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO); President of the CEBCO (County Employee Benefit Consortium) Board; Chair Athens County Economic Development Council; Member of the Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Regional Development Executive Committee, Buckeye Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council, The Appalachian Development Corporation and HAPCAP; 1st Vice President of the National Association of Counties. Serves on the NACO Membership Committee, the Rural Action Caucus and the Labor and Employment Steering Committee. PERRAC (Public Employees Risk Reduction Advisory Committee 2003; Ohio Supreme Court to the Indigent Defense Task <i>(word limit exceeded)</i>	BA in Leadership and Ministry / AA in Culinary Arts Real Estate Professional, Owner of Gaiser Enterprises LLC (Real Estate sales), Managing Member of KarMat Development LLC, a property development company. Fiscal & Budget Experience: Over 7 years experience running national chain restaurants creating and managing multi-million dollar budgets. Currently treasurer and chair the financial guidance committee at Christ Community Wesleyan church (responsible for creation of budget, and all bookkeeping). Active in the business & social communities of Athens, OH. Administration: Wholly responsible for the staffing and management of 80 – 100 employees for over 6 years in Athens, OH. Currently own <i>(word limit exceeded)</i>
<b>What do you think the best answer is to providing emergency medical services for the county?</b>	There is not an easy answer to this question. There are many things to be considered in making the decision. Providing the best emergency medical services to the citizens of Athens County within the available budget is the priority concern. Contracting with SEOEMS has advantages and disadvantages. Having a single county district makes for other challenges that the Board of Commissioners do not have to deal with now on a daily basis. It is important for the long run to find a solution that provides for the services that the citizens are used to getting and maintains them.	EMS services are essential to every person, and must be provided at a high level of excellence. While I believe that we should be "good neighbors" to our surrounding counties, we must first be responsible and take care of the people in our own County. We must provide EMS services, and we must make sure that they are staffed and given the support that they need to be able to service all areas of the County with quality care, and response times. Funds from the taxpayers of Athens County need to be spent on the taxpayers of Athens County.
<b>What cuts would you make to balance the county budget if funding decreases?</b>	We have been operating efficiently and effectively. It will depend on how much of a funding decrease there is in the budget. There may not have to be cuts. Funding mandated services is the first priority. Services that are not mandated will be the first to be cut. Restrictions on travel are a consideration. Another option is to shift responsibilities and costs from the general fund of the county to special funds. It is the job of the commissioner to allocate funds in a manner that allows each office holder to meet the required duties of their office.	The first thing to do if funding decreases is to find new funding. If we increase the "tax base" (NOT INCREASE TAXES) then we create new funding. The tax base increases by putting more people to work, creating new jobs. If we still have a funding decrease, we must look at multiple areas to cut costs. It is irresponsible to look at one specific area or agency and cut 1 or 2 areas. It is equally irresponsible to assume that all areas are inefficient enough to cut costs equally across the board. Identify inefficient areas, and make cuts appropriately.

**GOVERNOR (150-word limit set by the League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>John Kasich</b>	<b>Ken Matesz</b>	<b>Dennis S. Spisak</b>	<b>Ted Strickland</b>
<b>Party</b>	Republican	Libertarian	Green	Democratic
<b>Ohio is facing a huge budget deficit for the FYs ending in 2012 and 2013. What specific revenues increases would you support and what cuts would you make to balance the budget?</b>	As the chairman of the U.S. House Budget Committee, I led the effort to balance the federal budget for the first time in 30 years. I've written 13 budgets and know how to get the job done. I also know that budgets are not goals in themselves, but that they are a means of achieving goals. Ohio doesn't have a budget problem, it has an economic problem, and by undoing the economic mismanagement that has been imposed on Ohio over the past three years and which has contributed to the loss of almost 400,000 Ohio jobs, we will see immediate benefits to the state's bottom line. Working together we can set our priorities, manage this budget, make ourselves more competitive, and put the state on the path toward prosperity.	The budget deficit must be eliminated by budget CUTS, not by increasing taxes. I propose freezes in public employee hiring, wages, and pensions. I propose eliminating several extraneous state programs and departments and decreasing (then eliminating) the state's role in education in favor of local school control by local school boards, teachers, and parents.	To fix Ohio's looming budget problem we must focus on three areas: New Tax Revenue, Reduced Tax Expenditures, and Reduced Programmatic Expenditures. We must reinstate the upper bracket personal income tax rate of 7.5%, which would generate \$900 million dollars. We must increase the CAT tax by .08%, which would cover the estimated General Revenue Fund subsidies to schools and local governments and raise over \$400 million dollars. We must reduce tax expenditure loopholes, which cost Ohio over \$7 billion dollars a year. We must also reduce expenditures, which could also save millions over the biennium.	First, I'm working to create jobs because a growing economy is the most important factor for long term budget sustainability. Second, I've done what past Ohio leaders have only talked about doing – I have made tough choices to reduce the size of government and cut spending. Third, I'm modernizing state government and finding ways to provide services more efficiently. We're pursuing further efficiencies in the four larger systems that comprise 90% of the state's general revenue fund budget – our k-12 and higher education systems, corrections, and Medicaid. Finally, I'll approach the budget responsibly. I have a record that Ohioans can judge. The past is the best predictor of the future and I have already balanced two state budgets by cutting spending without raising taxes.

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (150-word limit set by League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Yvette McGee Brown</b>	<b>Ann Leech</b>	<b>Anita Rios</b>	<b>Mary Taylor</b>
<b>Party</b>	Democratic	Libertarian	Green	Republican
<b>What are the strengths you would bring to the office of Lieutenant Governor?</b>	<p>Governor Strickland will have a true partner who brings a wealth of experiences to the table. I am no stranger to making difficult choices, like the ones Governor Strickland and I will continue to make to create jobs, improve education, and expand healthcare for all Ohioans.</p> <p>As a county judge, voters entrusted me with the enormous responsibility of making legal decisions that impacted children's lives and our community. And as the founding President of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Nationwide Children's Hospital, I managed a large budget during tough economic times, while maintaining critical services for the treatment and prevention of child abuse and domestic violence.</p> <p>I will bring these experiences to the job of Lieutenant Governor and be an advocate for children, for families, and for the continued revitalization of Ohio's urban communities.</p>	Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline	Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline	As a Certified Public Accountant with 16-years of private sector experience I have successfully helped businesses grow and create jobs by solving problems impacting their bottom lines. Likewise, as Auditor of State I have helped state and local governments improve their operations and provide better service to taxpayers. As lieutenant governor I will work with John Kasich to apply this experience to get Ohio back on track by modernizing government and eliminating the barriers of high spending, high taxes, and excessive regulation that currently keep our businesses from thriving and creating jobs.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL (150-word limit set by League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Richard Cordray</b>	<b>Mike DeWine</b>	<b>Marc Allan Feldman</b>	<b>Robert Owens</b>
<b>Party</b>	Democratic	Republican	Libertarian	Constitution
<b>What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities?</b>	<p>Holding Wall Street accountable to Ohio workers, investors, and retirees for their greed and reckless violations of federal securities laws. Thus far, we have recovered approximately \$2.7 billion from these lawsuits.</p> <p>Increasing consumer protection for individuals, and extending consumer protection services to small businesses and nonprofits for the first time ever. Last year, we received and handled over 30,000 complaints from individuals, and we recovered millions of dollars while also cracking down on many different scams and frauds.</p> <p>Improving law enforcement support services. My office has provided cutting-edge tools so law enforcement officers in the field can identify and apprehend criminals faster than ever before. We have also introduced robotics and made other changes to reduce substantially the number of cases awaiting DNA and forensic analysis. And we have focused on human trafficking, public corruption, and computer crime as priorities for the office.</p>	<p>One of my top priorities will be to challenge the Constitutionality of the Obama healthcare law. To help create a business climate in Ohio that encourages the creation and growth of jobs in Ohio, I will join the 20 other state attorneys general in their lawsuit to declare President Obama's healthcare mandates as unconstitutional. Additionally, I will enforce an efficient operation at our state's crime lab, called BCI. Right now, there are unacceptable months-long delays in evidence-testing, which leaves criminals free to roam our streets. I will enforce timely and efficient evidence-testing standards. Similarly, through the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC), which the Attorney General chairs, I will go after corruption whenever and wherever I see it. I will be above politics and when I see corruption, I will go after it.</p>	<p>Fight government corruption, protect the people from unconstitutional interference by the Federal Government, promote respect for the law, and promote the safety, security, and freedom of the people of Ohio.</p>	<p>I will focus on enforcement of the Ohio Constitution, especially in relation to government operations. I will defend Ohio families and small businesses against overreaching federal and state bureaucracy and unscrupulous organizations. This includes litigation to protect Ohio families from mandated federal healthcare schemes, protection of Ohio families and Ohio jobs from illegal immigration and ending pay to play politics in the Office of Ohio Attorney General.</p>

**STATE AUDITOR (150-word limit set by League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Michael Howard</b>	<b>David Pepper</b>	<b>Dave Yost</b>
<b>Party</b>	Libertarian	Democratic	Republican
<b>What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records policy, given increased difficulty in accessing public records?</b>	<p>The Auditor of State used to have a unit devoted solely to educating officials about open records requirements, and that function will be continued. Officials should error on the side of transparency and full disclosure with the public's records. The Auditor also can and should monitor and comment on proposed laws and regulations pertaining to open records. The only "enforcement" the Auditor is reporting upon instances of violations of open records laws noted in audits.</p>	<p>Transparency has been a hallmark of my public service. I have pushed to make meetings, public work and spending as accessible as possible. And I was recognized by a local newspaper as the most transparent public official.</p> <p>The Auditor's office is uniquely situated to champion transparency, including strict adherence to sunshine and open-records laws. The most important step is to ensure that all officials know the details of both sunshine and public records laws, and why strict adherence to them is so important for open government. At the same time, the Auditor must inform citizens of their rights to open government, and their remedies if those rules are not followed.</p> <p>More broadly, the Auditor's role as a financial watchdog means that he/she should champion transparency in other ways. I will provide a user-friendly, open window into spending, results/performance, and other government work at all levels.</p>	<p>I would like to make public records easier to access online. Also, as State Auditor, I plan to root out corruption where it starts, before government officials have to worry about the public records.</p>

**SECRETARY OF STATE (150-word limit set by the League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Charles Earl</b>	<b>Jon Husted</b>	<b>Maryellen O'Shaughnessy</b>
<b>Party</b>	Libertarian	Republican	Democratic
<b>What election reforms do you support?</b>	Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.	<p>I am a co-sponsor of the election reforms in Senate Bill 8, which passed the Senate and is pending in the Ohio House. I have been actively involved in offering suggestions to bring compromise to the process so that broad-based bipartisan support can be developed to avoid the controversies from out-of-state influences that have undermined confidence in Ohio's system of elections. Additionally, I support establishing a one-time, bipartisan election advisory commission— made up of Republican and Democrat co-chairs – to gather information and make recommendations to the Secretary of State to provide stability to those on the frontlines of elections operations and ensure our state conducts elections in a manner in which we can all be proud.</p>	<p>I support the elections reform package presented in H. B. 260. Legislators are continuing to work out a compromise measure, I and hope that a bill will move forward in order to continue to improve elections processes in Ohio. As Secretary of State, I look forward to working to: continue support of early in-person and by-mail voting; review and simplify vote-by-mail processes, to reduce error; explore and employ cost savings measures, in partnership with boards of elections, like voting centers and purchasing pools; continue to work toward more consistent application of poll worker training; continue to improve processes for poll worker recruitment; explore feasibility of online voter registration; continue to look for ways to securely employ new technologies; work toward better education on voting rights, followed by assured voter registration for high school seniors; simplify confusing voter ID laws; clarify use of and reduce reasons for provisional balloting.</p>

**STATE TREASURER (150-word limit set by the League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Kevin L. Boyce</b>	<b>Matthew P. Cantrell</b>	<b>Josh Mandel</b>
<b>Party</b>	Democratic	Libertarian	Republican
<b>What additional safeguards</b>	After becoming Treasurer, I made tough choices to protect Ohio's tax dollars while growing our revenue.	I will recommend that state pension funds reduce the portion of non-investment grade securities, and mortgage related securities. I will	Unlike the current officeholder, I will ensure that my staff is comprised of qualified financial professionals—

<b>will you put in place to protect public investments? What are your investment strategies that would safely maximize the rate of return?</b>	First, I directed my administration to use private sector best practices that have earned \$300 million in new investment income for Ohio. Second, I created a historic competitive bidding process for banking contracts that saved Ohioans \$19 million. Third, I focused on cost savings, reducing Treasury expenses by 10.6% and taking two voluntary pay cuts myself. Because of this sound financial management, the Ohio Treasury has not lost a single dime to bad investments in the worst economic times since the Great Depression.	also seek an independent review of all current and proposed hedging strategies to mitigate risk. Finally, I will recommend that our pension fund long term growth assumptions be reduced from the current 8.00% level, as some states have done. This conservative assumption will give Ohio additional flexibility in future decades if long term growth materializes higher than expected. Regarding strategies to safely maximize rate of return, I believe that it is imperative for Ohio to continuously adapt its investments and strategies to changing market conditions. While it is certainly appropriate to have detailed procedures and laws guiding transactions on behalf of the public, we need to review whether these procedures are keeping Ohio from quickly exiting investments when necessary.	rather than political cronies and friends—and that investment decisions are based on what is best for Ohioans. The state investment scandals showed us all that we must be vigilant about potential abuses of taxpayer dollars. I was involved with the reconstruction of the BWC Investment Fund in the wake of the scandal involving that fund. Being part of the BWC restructuring gives me the experience necessary to recognize that proper safeguards are in place to protect tax dollars and state funds.
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**U.S. SENATE (150-word limit set by League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Eric W. Deaton</b>	<b>Lee Fisher</b>	<b>Daniel H. La Botz</b>	<b>Rob Portman</b>
<b>Party</b>	Constitution	Democratic	Socialist	Republican
<b>What is the role of the federal government in regulating the private sector?</b>	The federal government initially had limited power and resources to regulate private enterprise in our country. As our nation industrialized the need was found to regulate large companies that controlled the market through monopoly status. During WW2 we had a government that regulated nearly every aspect of our economy through the war powers act, but this control slowly subsided and deregulation prevailed for about 50 years. We now are on the upswing with the government taking control of healthcare and the financial markets to the detriment of free markets and competition that made our nation so great to begin with. Our government's role should be to simply protect the rights of the citizens and states as well as to provide for those things expressly granted to them within the U.S. Constitution. This model served a growing nation well and allowed us to be innovative and competitive in the global marketplace.	Through this economic crisis, we have let Wall Street run out of control. As your Senator I am going to make Main Street – not Wall Street – my priority and will work to ensure that we never fall back into this economic ditch. The government must create an environment for job creation, and I have a plan for creating jobs here in Ohio. I will end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and create a federal job creation tax credit for companies that create good jobs in America. I will redirect stimulus funds to projects immediately creating jobs. I will create a \$30 billion small business loan fund, and I will double the tax deduction for small business start-up costs. I will also make the clean energy manufacturing tax credit permanent and extend the research and development tax credit to keep and create jobs in Ohio.	Corporations today dominate our economy, society, culture and politics. The irresponsible actions of Massey Energy and BP make clear that we must regulate every aspect of the corporations and their greedy, selfish CEOs and boards. Finances, health and safety, labor relations, production, and products must all be regulated. Corporations have too much power and do too much damage. The oil companies, for example, have controlled our economy, thwarted attempts to create better environmental policies and taken the US into foreign wars for their profits. We must bring corporations under the ownership and control of the American people. We need to transform the corporations into socially-owned and managed firms within the context of a national economic and environmental plan. Why should a corporate board have the power to shutdown and ruin a community as DHL did in Wilmington? We the people together can do better than that.	The federal government has a role in regulating private commerce to ensure that markets are fair and efficient. This demands a careful balance between appropriate federal regulation and the additional burdens on private enterprise. I believe there are areas that demand more regulation. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were allowed to straddle a regulatory border that allowed them to reap large profits while exposing the U.S. taxpayer to all the risk. However, these institutions were left out of the financial regulatory bill enacted this year, which was a missed opportunity for reform. But all too often, Washington overreaches in its regulations. Washington is currently holding business hostage with the prospect of higher taxes, higher health care, and other regulatory burdens. The cost of this uncertainty amounts to over \$1.8 trillion that businesses are holding back from investing – costing jobs at a time when we need them most.
<b>Michael Pryce</b>	Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline			

**CHIEF JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF OHIO (150-word limit set by League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Eric Brown</b>	<b>Maureen O'Connor</b>
<b>How do you define "judicial independence" and how important is it to our judicial system? What measures ensure an independent judiciary?</b>	The General Assembly writes Ohio's laws and the Governor administers them, however the Supreme Court decides their meaning and how they will be applied to real-world situations. Courts have responsibility to review laws to ensure they comport with the Ohio and United States Constitutions. This power of judicial review gives meaning to our system of checks and balances. Generally, the meaning of laws is unambiguous, but sometimes, given a particular set of facts, the meaning is not clear and must be discerned by various well-established rules of construction. In these cases, courts must provide an interpretation that makes sense, providing appropriate deference to the role of lawmakers and with an eye to providing justice. Courts must be and remain independent of the other branches of government, working cooperatively on administrative and fiscal matters, while vigilantly protecting judicial independence with respect to deciding cases.	Judicial independence is essential to our legal system and is its very foundation. It is being faithful to the 'rule of law' without respect to persons, politics, or special interest groups. Only the public can ensure independence of the judiciary in an elected system by voting based on knowledge about the candidate, qualifications and record. Groups like the LWV play a crucial role in educating the voters with impartial material. The candidates' websites are also information rich sources.

**JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF OHIO (150-word limit set by League of Women Voters of Ohio)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Judith Ann Lanzinger</b>	<b>Mary Jane Trapp</b>
<b>How do you define "judicial independence" and how important is it to our judicial system? What measures ensure an independent judiciary?</b>	Judicial independence, the foundation of the third branch of government, does not mean that judges may decide cases however they wish. It means that judges must adhere to the rule of law no matter how their decisions may be viewed by the public. Supreme Court justices and other judges, although elected by voters, cannot "represent" any particular group or advocate any particular position. We are judges, not legislators or members of the executive branch. Our judicial oath says we must administer cases under the law, "without respect to persons." This means that all parties to a case deserve to be heard and have their arguments considered by unbiased and impartial deciders. Information and education helps citizens understand that an independent judiciary allows courts to be fair and strive to give equal access to justice under law.	The framers of our Constitution developed a system of government that would avoid the centralization of power in any one person or institution. The role of the judiciary is judicial review; to follow the rule of law and check abuses of that law by the executive and legislative branches. This concept is not written in the Constitution. It has been developed over time in the common law tradition through case law. Judges do not legislate. They should not create out of whole cloth laws that have been non-existent in the state. Ultimately though, "judicial independence" means that it is the job of the court to be the chief interpreter and arbiter of the Constitution. To ensure an impartial judiciary not influence by political or special interests we must look at proposals for reform which include consideration of public financing, wide distribution of League of Women Voters' informational voter guides, a stronger recusal rule, and increased objective qualifications for judges.

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