

<u>Voting Options</u> Absentee (also called Vote by Mail): 1) Submit an official absentee ballot request form now (available at VoteOhio.gov or call the Board of Elections). 2) Complete and return the ballot as soon as possible. The completed ballot must be received by the Board of Elections no later than 7:30pm on Election Day (November 3). The ballot can be returned in person to the Board of Elections office or the Board of Elections drop box, or it can be mailed. Early In-Person: At Board of Elections Office, 15 S. Court St., Athens. Oct 6-9 – 8am-5pm; Oct 12-16 – 8am-5pm; Oct 19-23 – 8am-5pm; Oct 24 – 8am-4pm; Oct 26 – 7:30am-7:30pm; Oct 27 – 7:30am-8:30pm; Oct 28-30 – 7:30am-7:30pm; Oct 31 – 8am-4pm; Nov 1 - 1pm-5pm In-Person on Election Day, November 3: Polls are open 6:30am–7:30pm. Voters in line by 7:30 pm will be permitted to vote. Identification: Unexpired photo identification is required to vote early in-person or on election day. Acceptable photo IDs are: OH Driver’s License, OH State ID card, US Passport or Passport Card, US Military ID, OH National Guard ID, or US Dept of Veterans Affairs ID. Absentee ballot ID can be any of the above, or the last four digits of the voter’s social security number. Full details at VoteOhio.gov. Athens County Board of Elections (BOE): To track your absentee ballot or to verify your polling location, visit the Athens County Board of Elections: www.boe.ohio.gov/athens or 740-592-3201.	The League of Women Voters of Athens County is a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Questions and character 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; however, the word <i>and</i> and <i>&</i> have been interchanged as necessary, only for the purposes of layout. A candidate's answers are printed with the understanding that the material will not be used in any way that could be considered to be the League's endorsement of the candidate or their views. <u>League of Women Voters of Athens County:</u> www.AthensLeagueofWomenVoters.org, AthensLeagueofWomenVoters@gmail.com, (740) 805-0366 - Online Voters Guide at Vote411.org
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Additional Candidate Responses, Responses Received After Our Print Deadline and Uncontested Race Information are Available Online at [www.Vote 411.org](#).

U.S. Senator; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Represents the people of Ohio & the U.S. in dealing with national & international matters in the U.S. Senate in Congress.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living?	State your position on foreign policy and national security.
Sherrod Brown Democratic	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Stephen Faris (Write-In) Independent	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Anthony Holliman (Write-In) Independent	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Jon Husted Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Greg Levy Independent	The rising cost of living demands emergency action for working people. I support an immediate nationwide price freeze on essential goods and services, raising the federal minimum wage to \$30 an hour, and canceling student, medical, and utility debt. I will fight to ban evictions and foreclosures, prohibit rent increases, and guarantee free universal childcare so families aren’t forced to choose between working and caring for their children. We can pay for these measures by cutting the Pentagon budget by 90% and taxing the massive windfall profits corporations have made while working people struggle to afford basic necessities. For too long, our policies have been dictated by the tiny clique of billionaires who stand to profit from rising costs.	I support a foreign policy based on peace, sovereignty, and international cooperation—not endless war. I would cut the Pentagon budget by 90% and redirect those resources toward housing, healthcare, education, and other social needs. We should dismantle the vast network of over 800 U.S. military bases abroad, end military alliances used to enforce U.S. domination, and end military aid to Israel and support for occupation and genocide. I also support lifting sanctions that punish ordinary people in countries like Cuba and Iran, defending the independence of colonies and Indigenous nations, and cooperating internationally to confront the shared threats facing humanity and the planet; like climate change, pandemics, and poverty.
William B Redpath Libertarian	Reduce Federal government spending. If not, we might have a debt crisis, the easiest response to which might be tolerating higher inflation. End the Federal Reserve’s “dual mandate”: maximum employment and stable prices. Focus on an inflation rate no higher than 2% every year. Repeal not just Trump’s tariffs, but all tariffs. I support a policy of unilateral free trade, which is a pro-consumer trade policy. We’re all consumers. It will also promote international peace. President Trump just suspended the Jones Act, which is a protectionist maritime policy, for 60 days due to high oil prices. It should be totally repealed. End product price support programs, like the sugar support system, which causes sugar to cost double the world average. Terminate all corporate welfare and farm subsidies.	The United States now frequently behaves as a rogue nation, with its military attacks on several nations and threats to longtime allies, such as Canada and Denmark. This will make US citizens less safe over the long run. I support a non-interventionist foreign policy, and only when the US homeland or territories are threatened, with very rare exceptions. That would allow us to cut the Defense budget. We need to regain the moral high ground, with a renewed emphasis on human rights. The Founders correctly made war declaration a committee decision. Congress must reassert its war powers. The US should treat the Middle East with benign neglect. The "special relationship" with the government of Israel only leads the US into problems. We should treat Israel as we would any other allied nation.
Timothy Telymonde (Write-In) Independent	Audit the pentagon Audit the federal reserve Audit all charities especially international Audit the complete circle of all foreign aid Drastically reduced all foreign aid Subsidize family farmers. End all geo engineering subsidies Invest in natural health education programs Encourage local business to business investment	I would encourage independent sovereign nation state policy. I would remove all super power veto rights I would remove nuclear weapons I would release zero point free energy to all I would eliminate the need for fossil fuels

U.S. House of Representatives, District 2; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: To represent the people of Ohio, their district, & the U.S. in dealing with national & international matters in the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living?	State your position on foreign policy and national security.
Jen Mazzuckelli Democratic	This isn't my area of expertise, but it seems that our first priority should be to reduce our deficit which is rapidly approaching \$39 trillion. I also believe that it would better serve the public good if the "Epstein class" paid at least their fair share of taxes than it does when they throw millions of dollars at political candidates in an attempt to manipulate our elections. We also need to directly and aggressively investigate ways to reduce housing, healthcare, and energy costs.	Between the war, our damaged reputation with the International community, and our rapidly increasing debt, just to name a few issues, we have a big mess on our hands and we have a lot of work to do. We need a foreign policy that is grounded in a recognition of Universal Human Rights. We need a foreign policy that respects the sovereignty of all nations and prioritizes diplomacy unless there are no other options than to use miitary force. Our national security depends on it. But our national security also depends on having a functional government. Before we can even begin to address the multitude of problems that make our country less safe we need a Congress that is willing and able to fulfill the core responsibilities that have been outlined in the Constitution.
David Taylor Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.

VOTE 411

The League of Women Voters contacts candidates multiple times to try to ensure all candidates are represented in the guide. If candidates did not respond by the print deadline, you may still find their responses in the online guide at [www.Vote411.org](#).

Voting Problems?

Call or Text:

ELECTION PROTECTION

1-866-OUR-VOTE

866 OUR VOTE

Español

888-VE-Y-VOTA

888-API-VOTE

844-YALLA-US

ourvote.org

Nonpartisan Election Help

FIRST TIME VOTER?

WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED.

We’ve taken the guesswork out of voting for the first time. Follow our checklist and get prepared to go to the polls.

[www.vote411.org/first-time-voter-checklist](#)

Ohio Governor; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Ensures that all state laws are executed, reports the condition of the state, & presents a proposed budget to the legislature.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living?	What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education?
Amy Acton Democratic	As a doctor, I've seen how important it is that Ohioans can both access and afford the care they need – and right now, that simply isn't the case for so many people in our state. As governor, I will fight to lower healthcare costs by protecting against attacks on Medicaid and Medicare, launch an online platform to leverage Ohio's purchasing power on prescription drugs, and forgive medical debt. I will work to lower healthcare premiums through transparency, and crack down on surprise billing and predatory collection practices. Our energy bills are too high, and as governor, I will fight to lower your bills through an energy strategy that enhances production, incorporates the lowest-cost and cleanest sources of energy, and expands access to cost-saving programs.	First, I will fully and constitutionally fund our public schools, allowing us to prioritize students, educators, and schools to reduce the pressure on local property taxes. Second, Ohio's private school voucher program is sending billions of hardworking Ohioans' tax dollars to fund private schools with no accountability. I will tackle the out-of-control private school voucher system and push for desperately needed transparency regarding where those billions are being spent. Third, I will use those savings to invest in best practices that will bring Ohio’s schools into the 21st century, with cutting-edge literacy and math programs that help kids prepare for the workforce. I will invest in new approaches to math and literacy programs to make sure they're tied to real-world demands.
Timothy Grady (Write-In) Independent	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Heather Hill (Write-In) Independent	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Donald C Kissick Libertarian	"This is a tough one because rising costs are being caused by a number of things outside of our control- the war and tariffs which both will cause supply chain issues. We've talked alot about deregulation for the small business because the amount of taxes and regulations impacting the small business owner has essentially been constricting them out of business. On top of that if we can create a more collaborative environment for resources in the given locales like opener and more collaborative coalitions for mental health nonprofits, housing, small business incubators- you can drive jobs back to the smaller communities which will in theory drive more business back to the mom and pop shops- especially if you eliminate the subsidies that have gone to mainly large scale corporations"	As mentioned, we'd focus on ending compliance based testing programs which are costly to manage and create additional bureaucracy in administrators. Similar to business, where my boss trusts me to do the work- and in theory my boss is supposed to be either more educated, more certified, or more experience than me- we should move towards a model where because this teacher has indicated they have a mastery over math or a mastery over English, I should trust them that they're teaching their students mastery. We can use testing for diagnostic purposes, you could also have more portfolio based modeling for students; but at the end of the day, if that teacher is a master of the topic and the department head or admin over them has said they're doing an adequate job- who am I to say otherwise?
Vivek Ramaswamy Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Renea Turner (Write-In) Independent	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Ron Ula (Write-In) Independent	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.

Ohio Lieutenant Governor; 1 To Be Elected			
Responsibilities: Succeeds governor in the event of death, conviction by impeachment, or disability of the governor.			
Candidates in alphabetical order	Running mate to this Ohio Governor candidate:	What are your top two policy priorities for the next four years?	What are the most important functions of the lieutenant governor, and why?
Michael Lehnerd (Write-In) Independent	Ron Ula	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Patrick Manley (Write-In) Independent	Heather Hill	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Robert A McColley Republican	Vivek Ramaswamy	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
James L Mills Libertarian	Don Kissick	First rebuild Ohio’s economic engine by expanding access for small businesses and workers: cutting barriers, opening up capital and contracts, and creating real pathways to growth. Second, restore trust in government through transparency and accountability- making sure every dollar is trackable, every decision is open, and the system works for people, not insiders.	The ability to preside over the state senate. One of the most prominent facets of LT. Governor is to help implement the legislative agenda so when Don and I talk about bolstering an environment to overturn citizens united and get rid of money in politics, to focus on deregulating the small business owner, or even some of the influences we’ve seen with local law enforcement working with ICE- as a Lt. Governor having the ability to influence legislative agenda, these are all things I can imbue the state senate to start working on.
Andrea Neutzing (Write-In) Independent	Timothy Grady	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
David Pepper Democratic	Amy Acton	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Jalen Turner (Write-In) Independent	Renea Turner	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.

Ohio Attorney General; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Represents the state in all legal cases in which the state is a party or has a significant interest.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	What divisions (e.g. consumer protection, environment, civil rights, immigration, elections, etc.) will you prioritize, and why?	What are the most important functions of the attorney general, and why?
Keith Faber Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
John J Kulewicz Demoratic	Right now, times are tough. I would prioritize the section of the office that handle consumer protection, anti-trust, and anti-corruption efforts to ensure that Ohioans are being given a fair shake in the economy. These are not the most glamorous cases to bring, but they make a real difference for working people all across the state.	The Attorney General is the chief law officer of the State of Ohio. They are responsible for police officer training and certification, consumer protection, anti-trust enforcement, and rooting out corruption in our state and local governments.

Ohio State Auditor; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Audits all financial records of public offices in Ohio. Maintains deed records of state.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	What are your goals for improving the function of the auditor’s office?	What are the most important functions of the state auditor, and why?
Annette Blackwell Democratic	As Ohio's Auditor, my top priority is to transform the office from a purely punitive watchdog into a proactive partner for Ohio's communities. Too many local governments, school districts, and small public entities lack access to the financial expertise they need to manage their systems well. My office will close that resource gap. I will expand the Auditor's role as a trusted consultant and coach to provide hands-on technical assistance, training and fiscal guidance so communities can build stronger financial systems before a crisis occurs. That said, accountability is non-negotiable. I will investigate all cases of corruption and fiscal mismanagement and hold bad actors accountable, regardless of political affiliation.	The Auditor's main function is to protect taxpayer dollars against fraud, misuse and corruption. I further believe that the auditor's office should work to support government entities in improving financial practices to not just comply with regulations, but to stretch hard-earned taxpayer dollars.
Frank LaRose Republican	My goal is to strengthen the Auditor’s office as an independent watchdog that is focused not only on finding problems, but also on helping government work better. That means continuing to prioritize transparency, efficiency, and accountability; using audits and performance reviews to identify ways agencies and local governments can improve operations; expanding efforts to detect fraud, waste, and abuse early; and making sure audit findings are clear, timely, and useful to the public and to the entities being audited. I also believe the Auditor’s office should be a constructive partner to local governments by helping them improve internal controls and deliver the services their constituents depend on, and strengthening trust in government.	The most important functions of the Auditor of State are ensuring transparency, efficiency, and accountability in government; protecting taxpayers from fraud, waste, and abuse; and giving the public confidence that their tax dollars are being managed responsibly. The office plays a critical role by auditing state and local entities, identifying weaknesses in financial controls, investigating misuse of public money, and helping public agencies operate more effectively. Those responsibilities matter because taxpayers deserve honest government, and public officials should be held to the highest standards when they are entrusted with public resources. The office also performs performance audits aimed at improving economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in public operations.

Ohio Secretary of State; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Oversees the election process in each of Ohio’s 88 counties. Maintains records of corporations.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	What changes, if any, would you make to election security?	What changes, if any, would you make to campaign finance policy?
Tom Pruss Libertarian	Election security should focus on transparency, verifiability, and public trust. Ohio already has strong safeguards, but we can improve confidence by expanding risk-limiting audits, ensuring every vote has a verifiable paper trail, and making election data more transparent to the public. Security measures must protect the integrity of elections without making it harder for eligible voters to participate. That means clear procedures, secure voter ID with free state IDs available to anyone who needs one, and consistent statewide standards for equipment and auditing. The goal is simple: secure elections that are easy to vote in and hard to cheat in.	Ohio’s campaign finance system should emphasize transparency and fairness. Voters deserve to know who is funding political campaigns, so I support stronger disclosure requirements and faster reporting of major contributions so the public can see who is trying to influence elections in real time. At the same time, regulations should not be so complex that they discourage everyday citizens from running for office or participating in the political process. I support simplifying compliance rules for smaller campaigns while ensuring large donors and political action committees remain fully transparent.
Allison Russo Democratic	One change I would make is increasing and stabilizing funding for our local Boards of Elections. Currently, funding for county Boards of Elections comes from a mix of state and county resources. As a result, some counties are well funded, while others only have enough resources to do the minimum required to carry out elections with limited staffing. When resources vary significantly by county, it can create gaps that make it harder for some jurisdictions to maintain the highest standards of security and efficiency. My knowledge and experience navigating the state budget process will be important in advocating for adequate funding for our Boards of Elections. Ensuring these offices have the staffing, technology, and training they need will help maintain secure, reliable elections.	The Secretary of State carries out campaign finance laws, but does not have the power to set new policy without legislative action. However, the Secretary of State still has regulatory oversight into this process. Last year, the Ohio Legislature dissolved the Ohio Elections Commission and shifted the investigation for violations of campaign finance laws to the Secretary of State’s office. Appeal of decisions goes to the Ohio Elections Integrity Commission, whose chairperson is also appointed by the Secretary of State. The Ohio Secretary of State has enormous discretion to investigate campaigns for any potential campaign finance infractions. Because of this new and relatively unchecked power, it is more important than ever that Ohio elects a Secretary of State who is fair and transparent.
Robert Sprague Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.

Ohio State Treasurer; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Chief Financial Officer of the state, overseeing the collection, investment and protection of state funds.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	What are your goals for improving the function of the treasurer’s office?	What are the most important functions of the state treasurer, and why?
Jay Edwards Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Seth Walsh Democratic	As Treasurer of Ohio, I will ensure the office operates with integrity and our focus is on investing in all of our communities so Ohioans can succeed. Programs like the LinkedDeposits program, the 529 College Advantage and social impact bonding are the type of programs that the Treasurer's office should continue to implement to maximize and optimize how Ohio reinvests its money in our people.	The Treasurer of Ohio has two top priorities: securing the state's investments and stewarding our public pension funds. As Treasurer, I will ensure the state's investments, pension funds, and revenue are managed with integrity and are used to strengthen our communities so all Ohioans thrive.

Ohio Supreme Court Justice: Terms Commencing 01/01/2027; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Interpret and apply Ohio laws, which must be in compliance with the Ohio & United States Constitutions. Justices represent the Ohio Supreme Court as a co-equal branch of government that provides a check & balance on Ohio’s legislative & executive branches.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	What major challenges do courts face today? How would you address them?	List your judicial experience (courts and years).
Daniel R Hawkins Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Marilyn Zayas Democratic	The greatest challenges facing Ohio courts are restoring public trust in an independent judiciary & maintaining stability in the law. Yet our Ohio Supreme Court has increasingly departed from well-established precedent. In April 2026, its decision in Disciplinary Counsel v. Rudduck departed from federal precedent & allowed judges to endorse politicians, raising concerns about the integrity of our courts. I will never endorse a political candidate because everyone deserves confidence that the courtroom is a place of impartial justice. In July 2026, the Court reversed its own 1987 precedent in State v. King. Changes to settled law should be rare, principled, & carefully explained. I will remain faithful to the rule of law. Trust is earned through integrity, independence, & equal justice.	Ohio First District Court of Appeals Judge, 2016–present; decided 2,000+ appeal cases across Ohio. Last year, selected three times in 40 days by the Chief Justice (associated with a different political party) to replace a recused justice on our Ohio Supreme Court, an unprecedented honor. Additionally, previously appointed to the Supreme Court and the Second, Sixth, Eighth, and Tenth District Courts of Appeals.

Ohio Supreme Court Justice: Terms Commencing 01/02/2027; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Interpret and apply Ohio laws, which must be in compliance with the Ohio & United States Constitutions. Justices represent the Ohio Supreme Court as a co-equal branch of government that provides a check & balance on Ohio’s legislative & executive branches.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	What major challenges do courts face today? How would you address them?	List your judicial experience (courts and years).
Jennifer Brunner Democratic	My judicial philosophy is based in fairness, equality and respect. The rule of law exists to provide fairness in human endeavors, which allows individuals to live peaceably among one another with predictability, safety and a springboard for their individual pursuit of happiness. In a democracy bound to the rule of law, it is inherently recognized by members of such a society that there is something greater than themselves in the law to help all people govern their own affairs. When the keepers of the rule of law of that society remember that they work in service to the people, the law works to the good of the people and their freedoms.	Supreme Court of Ohio, Justice (2021-Present); Ohio Appellate Judge - 10th District Court of Appeals (2014-2020), Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Court (2000-2005), founder of Treatment is Essential to Success (TIES) felony drug court in 2004, still in operation; International Governance and Rule of Law Experience to National Center for State Courts for Serbian Ministry of Justice and misdemeanor judges (2012-2013); conducted training onsite for Sri Lanka Bar Association (2015); USAID observer of 3 elections in Egypt, working with judges who supervised elections (2014-2015); remote volunteer for American Bar Association (ABA) for NGOs in Kazakhstan, producing video training for civil society advocacy, and onsite consultant to Benin Human Rights Commission for ABA (2022).
Colleen O'Donnell Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.

The League extends our sincere appreciation to the Athens Messenger for printing this Voter Guide, and for graciously providing a discount on the printing. We also thank them for years of commitment to advancing civic engagement among the citizens of Southeast Ohio.

If you use this Guide, please consider supporting the League: Make a Donation or Join Our League at www.AthensLeagueofWomenVoters.org
Community and member donations support our local activities, including Voter Guides, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration Drives, and Voting & Civic Education. As a member you can participate in local, state, or national League activities, contribute a valuable service to your community, and get civic information you can trust.

AthensLeagueOfWomenVoters.Org

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Become a Member



The League of Women Voters of Athens County is a nonpartisan, grassroots civic organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. With over 100 years of experience, the League is one of America’s oldest and most trusted civic nonprofit organizations.

Ohio State House District 94; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Represent the people of their district in the Ohio House of Representatives to propose and pass laws and decide the state budget.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living?	What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education?
Kevin Ritter Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.
Wenda Sheard Democratic	We’re all feeling the rising cost of necessities like groceries, housing, health insurance, electricity, and gasoline. It’s not fair that some people have extreme wealth, while many of us sit at our kitchen tables trying to balance our budgets. I’m running for State Representative because I’m tired of the Ohio Legislature passing laws that benefit the rich at the expense of the rest of us. I will work to repeal laws that give wealthy individuals and large corporations tax breaks, that take away health care from hundreds of thousands of people, and that allow utilities to profit beyond reason. We all suffer when the rich have a larger influence in politics than the rest of us have. I will work for you, using my education, experience, and deep sense of fairness to represent all of us.	Our public schools are suffering a funding crisis. Ohio lawmakers have diverted your tax dollars to fund private schools with little accountability as to how the funds are spent, and with no obligation to accept your child into their school. I will work to make sure Ohio’s public school funding finally becomes “thorough and efficient” as required by the Ohio Constitution. I will also work to fund Ohio’s career centers and universities thoroughly and efficiently. Lastly, I will work to overturn the 2025 law (SB1) that limited academic freedom, curtailed union rights, and created an atmosphere of fear in our universities. Ohio’s schools and universities are best run by educational professionals, not politicians. Good education systems result in strong workforces and thriving communities.

Ohio State House District 95; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: Represent the people of their district in the Ohio House of Representatives to propose and pass laws and decide the state budget.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living?	What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education?
Paul Cameron Democratic	We need programs and funding to revitalize the downtown areas of the numerous small communities throughout District 95. We must restore salvageable vacant buildings and remove and replace buildings beyond saving. I will work to help small, locally owned businesses become established in the restored downtown spaces, with special emphasis on providing availability of essential services such as grocery stores, medical clinics, restaurants, libraries, and community centers. These businesses will provide local jobs and provide a town core to attract additional businesses to the area, improving job opportunity and wages, while also reducing the distance and time required to reach essential services.	Revitalizing communities is key to establishing a necessary base of infrastructure upon which to build greater technological access for southeast Ohio students. Improved academic performance requires high speed internet access to all households as a necessary utility. Incentives must be provided to attract qualified, quality teachers to the region. Students need an education designed to prepare them for both the adult job market as well as being informed participants in general society. Greater access to trade based education must be provided, with the goal of also having local jobs available in those trades. Furthermore, Pre-K programs must be available for all families regardless of economic status.
Ty Moore Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.

Athens County Commissioner; 1 To Be Elected		
Responsibilities: To exercise financial control of County expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to vet contracts; to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments.		
Candidates in alphabetical order	What are the most important challenges facing our county, and how do you propose to address them?	How should commissioners support new economic development while protecting existing community resources?
Autumn Brown Democratic	We face several serious challenges, such as housing affordability & availability, workforce development, and creating solid economic opportunities. We have strained essential services, and infrastructure needs that lack funding and planning. I will strengthen partnerships with municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, and residents, and seek state/federal resources to support local priorities. We need a plan for future to sustain our essential services and plan for better infrastructure, housing, jobs, and economic growth. I will listen before I acts. I have experience in bringing people together, identifying shared priorities, developing action steps, and following through! Together we can build a stronger Athens Co.	We need economic development that strengthens our communities without sacrificing resources that make it a great place to live. Recent concerns have shown that many residents feel they are not being adequately included in conversations that could significantly affect their communities. I am committed to seeking early public engagement, that includes clear, factual info on environmental impacts, infrastructure demands, jobs, and tax benefits. Economic development should include measurable community benefits and strong accountability. we must bring residents, businesses, municipalities, economic development organizations, and technical experts together to navigate bringing good paying jobs to Athens Co.
Sarah Smith Republican	Candidate has not yet responded.	Candidate has not yet responded.

Ballot wording of all issues is available at www.Vote411.org.

Ohio Issue 3 - Title: To Require Voters to Present Photo Identification in Order to Vote		
Issue 3 Certified Ballot Board Explanation: https://www.ohiosos.gov/assets/certified-ballot-language-08-03-2026.pdf Explanation: A "yes" vote supports amending the Ohio Constitution to: *Enshrine into the Ohio Constitution the state’s current voter ID law for those voting in person at the Early Voting Location or on Election Day. *Constitutionally require specific documents to count as voter ID including: a driver’s license or state ID card issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles or its successor agency or a temporary document issued by that agency for an applicant to use while waiting to receive the license or card that contains all the same information; a U.S. passport or passport card; a U.S. military ID card; an Ohio National Guard ID card; or an ID card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency. *Allow the Ohio General Assembly to continue to choose whether to require photo ID to vote by mail. *A "no" vote opposes amending the Ohio Constitution to enshrine Ohio’s existing photo ID requirements. If this does not pass, Ohio’s current photo ID law remains in effect, and the General Assembly would continue to have the authority to pass voter ID legislation.	Pros Argument for voting YES *Enshrining Ohio’s current voter ID law into the state Constitution may strengthen election integrity. *By embedding the current voter ID requirements into the Ohio Constitution, this measure would prevent the Ohio General Assembly from changing those requirements unless voters approve a future constitutional amendment. *Though Ohio is widely regarded as a national leader for its election security, this amendment may improve public trust in elections. *Currently, Ohio residents 17 and older can get a free State ID from Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, if they do not have a valid Ohio driver’s license. *This proposal grants the Ohio General Assembly the power to approve additional types of photo ID beyond those listed, maintaining election security as technological standards evolve.	Cons Argument for voting NO *The amendment is redundant and wasteful, because Ohio election law already requires this exact list of photo IDs. *Ohio’s Constitution ought to be reserved for foundational rights and principles, rather than policies that can be enacted and modified through regular Ohio legislation. Details of election law are better updated through the legislative process as technology and security needs change. *By calling for physical documents and cards when the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs only offers digital ID, the language of this proposed Constitutional Amendment is already outdated. *Obtaining the prescribed forms of acceptable ID and underlying documents required to get the prescribed IDs can be costly, may not be readily available, and could be ruled to be a form of poll tax. While Ohio currently offers free state IDs from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, that law could be revoked at any time. The proposed amendment would disproportionately affect seniors, people with disabilities, students, married women, and rural Ohioans. *By only covering ID requirements for in-person voting and not including voting by mail, this proposed Constitutional Amendment doesn’t treat all forms of voting equally.

Local Issues			
Athens County Issue 7	Proposed Tax Levy (Additional) Athens County - An additional tax for the benefit of Athens County for the purpose of maintenance and operation of Athens City-County Health Department that the county auditor estimates will collect \$1,520,051 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$35 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's market value, for 10 years, commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027.		
The following regions have local issues on the ballot. To see the specific issues visit www.Vote411.org or access your sample ballot online at https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/athens/vtrlookup.aspx#			
Albany Village	Athens City School District	Dover Township	Nelsonville 2 Precinct
Alexander Township	Buchtel Village	Jacksonville Village	Rome Township
Alexander Local School District	Canaan Township	Lee Township	Troy Township
Ames Township	Carthage Township	Lodi Township	York Township
Amesville Village	Chauncey Village		

Ballot wording of all issues is available at www.Vote411.org.

Additional Candidate Responses, Responses Received After Our Print Deadline and Uncontested Race Information are Available Online at www.Vote411.org.

A version of our voter guide will also be available on the Libby app, which can be accessed with an Athens County Public Library card.

