Candidate Guide for Central Ohio
Fall 2018 Election
Make your voice heard with Local Matters

This election season, join Local Matters in rallying for food and health-related issues. A lack of food education and access in our communities is not a partisan issue – every candidate needs to understand the challenges our neighbors face each day and have a plan to help end these problems.

We encourage you to use this guide to ask candidates how they will work to alleviate these issues in our communities. Questions can be asked during public candidate forums, through social media, and by calling and emailing the candidates’ campaign teams (see page 2 for more information).

After you ask candidates these questions, let us know! We would love to hear about your experience. You can tag us on social media or reach us directly by emailing or calling Sarah Miller, Communications & Advocacy Manager, at smiller@local-matters.org or (614-263-5662). Thank you for participating in the democratic process with us!

**Question:** Diet-related chronic disease is a crisis that affects people across all demographics. Many of our neighbors - kids and adults - suffer from poor nutrition. What policies will you change or stand behind to help improve these conditions?

**Question:** As grocery stores leave our inner-city neighborhoods, they also leave thousands of people without convenient access to nutritious foods. What are some strategies you envision will help solve this issue?

**Question:** Over 1.5 million Ohioans rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) benefits to ensure there is food on the table. Nearly 700,000 of them are children. Do you plan to support and enhance federal funding for SNAP?

**Question:** While recent data shows that the country’s job crisis is abating, workers continue to earn smaller and smaller shares of the output they generate. Poverty contributes to individuals’ inability to access the food and healthcare they need. What innovative solutions to reduce wealth inequality will you work to enact?
WE RISE

Communicating with candidates running for public office can feel intimidating. There are so many forms of communication, it is difficult to know what is best. The answer is almost always whichever form of communication feels most comfortable to you.

Whatever form of communication(s) you choose, be sure to let them know who you are and that you are planning to vote. Then, tell them about what food and health-related issue is most important to you. Still wondering how to reach out? Remember the acronym, WE RISE – it will help you figure out what to do.

Write.
Write a postcard or letter to send to the candidate and their team (staffers could be your new best friends).

Events.
Attend candidate nights and other events where they will be answering questions. Make sure to come prepared with your questions and be ready to jump when the opportunity to ask a question arises. Remember: it is best to be heard first and often. If your question is ignored, keep trying!

Research.
Research information about the candidates. Knowing their background and what they stand for can help you frame questions in a more effective manner.

In-person.
If you miss public events but want to talk in person, try to schedule a meeting. It may help if you organize a group of voters in your district and schedule a meeting together.

Social Media.
We now all know that Twitter can be used as a microphone. Because of that, social media can be the most direct and efficient way to connect with candidates. Tag them on Twitter or Facebook. Their profiles should note if it is the candidate themselves responding or a representative for them.

Echo Effect.
Your voice matters, but sometimes individual voices are less effective than a collective voice. Organize with your friends and neighbors to use the echo effect. If one of you asks a question that is not answered, another can echo the question. Eventually, it will be noticed.
Candidate Overview

Finding your candidates’ schedules can be difficult! Check out your candidates’ websites and Facebook pages for their latest news, or call their office if necessary. Other helpful resources are: Franklin County Board of Elections; Franklin County Democratic Party Events page; and Franklin County Republican Party Events page.

Please note that only major party candidates are listed below. For a sample ballot with a full listing of candidates, please visit the Franklin County Board of Elections website.

**Governor**
Richard Cordray, with Betty Sutton (D)
https://cordrayforohio.com

Mike DeWine, with Jon Husted (R)
https://www.mikedewine.com

**US Senator for Ohio**
Sherrod Brown (D)
https://www.sherrodbrown.com

Jim Renacci (R)
https://jimrenacci.com

**Ohio Senate**
3rd Senate District
Tina Maharath (D)
https://ballotpedia.org/Tina_Maharath

Anne Gonzales (R)
http://annegonzales.org

15th Senate District
Hearcel F. Craig (D)
http://craigforohio.com

Jordan Garcea (R)
https://ballotpedia.org/Jordan_Garcea

19th Senate District
Louise Valentine (D)
https://www.valentineforohio.com

Andrew O. Brenner (R)
https://andrewbrenner.com

**US House of Representatives**
3rd Congressional District
Joyce Beatty (D)
https://beattyforcongress.com

Jim Burgess (R)
http://burgessforohio.com

12th Congressional District
Danny O’Connor (D)
https://dannyoconnorforcongress.com

Troy Balderson (R)
https://baldersonforcongress.com

15th Congressional District
Rick Neal (D)
https://rickNeal.com

Steve Stivers (R)
https://stevestivers.com

**Ohio House of Representatives**
17th House District
Adam C. Miller (D)
https://www.millerforohio.com

John Rush (R)
http://citizensforrush.com

18th House District
Kristin Boggs (D)
http://boggsforohio.nationbuilder.com

David Todd (R)
https://ballotpedia.org/David_Todd
19th House District
Mary Lightbody (D)
https://www.marylighbody.com

Tim Barhorst (R)
https://www.timbarhorstforohio.com

20th House District
Richard Brown (D)
https://ballotpedia.org/Richard_Brown_(Ohio)

Bobby L. Mitchell (R)
http://mitchellforohio.com

21st House District
Beth Liston (D)
http://bethliston.com

Stu Harris (R)
https://www.stuharrisforohio.com

22nd House District
David Leland (D)
https://friendsofdavidleland.com

Doug Moody (R)
https://ballotpedia.org/Doug_Moody

23rd House District
Russell Harriss (D)
https://voteharrissforohio.com

Laura Lanese (R)
https://ballotpedia.org/Laura_Lanese

24th House District
Allison Russo (D)
https://allisonrusso.com

Erik F. Yassenoff (R)
https://www.erikyassenoff.com

25th House District
Bernadine Kennedy Kent (D)
https://ballotpedia.org/Bernadine_Kennedy_Kent

Debbie Staggs (R)
https://ballotpedia.org/Debbie_Staggs

26th House District
Erica C. Crawley (D)
https://crawleyforohio.com

Shareeqe Arife Sadiq (R)
https://ballotpedia.org/Shareeqe_Arif_e_Sadiq