

Voter Guide

2021

Prepared by League of Women Voters Bowling Green

Voters in: → Bowling Green City Schools District
→ Bowling Green City

Includes: → Candidates for Bowling Green City Council
→ Bowling Green Board of Education

Ballot Issues:

- + BG Parks & Recreation *Replacement Levy*
- + BG Schools Income *Tax Renewal*
- + Wood County Committee on Aging *Levy Renewal*

Important Dates:

October 4: *Last day to Register to Vote for November 2nd Election*

October 5–November 1: *Early In-Person/Absentee Voting Period*

November 2: *Election Day Polls Open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.*



Early In-Person / Absentee Voting *see page 2*



What ID to bring to the polls *see page 2*

League of Women Voters continues Voter Guide tradition

For over 60 years League of Women Voters of Bowling Green in partnership with the Sentinel-Tribune has provided a Voter Guide to inform voters about candidates and issues for general elections. Throughout the years the information about candidates and issues has been collected by League of Women Voters and published by the Sentinel-Tribune. The partnership continues this year in a different format with this Voter Guide published and paid for as a stand-alone insert.

The League is responsible for the format and questions for all candidates. Each candidate is requested to complete a questionnaire and is limited to a specific number of words. Candidate responses are printed without editing by the League.

The League of Women Voters of Bowling Green is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to encouraging active and informed participation of citizens in government. The League does not endorse candidates for office. The inclusion of candidate information is for the sole purpose of informing the public and does not imply League endorsement of any candidate or party. The League does take positions on issues after careful study.

Voters can also check out VOTE411.org, another source for information about the candidates and issues they will find on their ballots.

The president of the League is Janet Parks and the Voter Service Chair is Ellen Dalton.

To email the Bowling Green League of Women Voters: info@lwvbg.org.

League of Women Voters Bowling Green is grateful to the donors to our finance drive, whose support makes this Voter Guide possible.

Early Voting – 2021

Absentee and early voting are the same thing which is casting a ballot prior to Election Day. Voters may choose to vote in person at the Board of Elections at the Wood County Courthouse or may request a ballot by mail.

Early In-Person Absentee Voting

Starting on October 5th (the day after the close of registration) you may cast your absentee ballot in person at the Wood County Courthouse Atrium. The Board of Elections will be open extended hours for Early In-Person voting; the schedule is:

October 5th – October 22th

Monday through Friday from 8am–5pm

October 25th – October 29th

Monday through Friday from 8am–7pm

Saturday October 30 from 8am–4pm

Sunday October 31 from 1pm–5pm

Monday November 1st from 8am–2pm
The entrance to the Wood County Courthouse is located on N Summit St in Bowling Green.

Absentee Voting by Mail

If you are a qualified Ohio voter and your registration is up to date, you are eligible to cast an absentee ballot by mail. Absentee ballots will be mailed beginning on October 5th (the day after the close of registration).

A voter may download an absentee ballot request form from the Wood County Board of Elections website at www.wood.oh.us/BOE. Click on Absentee/

Early Voting and select Application for a ballot by mail. Or the voter may call the Wood County Board of Elections at 419-354-9120 to request an absentee ballot application.

To vote by mail this year, it is recommended that the request be received by the Board of Elections no later than October 23 to be assured of getting your ballot in time to complete and return it by Election Day. You may request an absentee ballot any time after January 1 and you are encouraged to submit your request as early as possible to ensure time to receive, vote and return your ballot.

Be aware that if you have requested an absentee ballot and decide to vote in person at your polling location on Election Day or in-person at the BOE, you will vote a provisional ballot which will be included with all other provisional ballots in the official count approximately 3 weeks after Election Day.

If you choose not to use the form you may still obtain an absentee ballot by writing to the board of elections and providing the following information:

- Name
- Wood County voting address
- Address ballot should be mailed to if different than Wood County voting address
- Voter's Date of Birth
- Proof of Identification: Voter's Ohio driver's license number (begins with two letters followed by six numbers) or the last four digits of

voter's Social Security number; or a copy of a current and valid military identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address

- A statement identifying the election for which you are requesting an absentee ballot
- A statement indicating that the voter is a qualified elector and
- Voter's signature.

Absentee ballot requests may be mailed to the Wood County Board of Elections, 1 Courthouse Square, Bowling Green OH 43402-2427 or they may be placed in the Board of Elections secure 24/7 drop box located near the entrance to the Wood County Courthouse on N Summit St. in Bowling Green.

You may provide a phone number or email address to assist the Board of Elections in contacting you if your application is incomplete.

An absentee ballot must be returned to the Board of Elections by the close of voting (7:30 p.m.) on Election Day, or if mailed, must be postmarked by November 1 and received by the Board of Elections by November 12.

You may track your absentee ballot online at www.VoteOhio.gov/track.

An absentee ballot may be returned to the secure 24/7 drop box near the entrance to the Wood County Courthouse on N Summit St in Bowling Green.

★ Voter ★ information

Nov. 2, 2021

General Election
Polls are open from
6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

What ID to Bring to the Polls

Voters must bring an acceptable form of identification to the polls. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- An unexpired Ohio driver's license or state identification card with current or former address so long as the voter's current address is recorded in the official list of registered voters for that precinct
- An original or a paper or electronic copy of a current (within the last 12 months) utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address. A cell phone bill counts as a utility bill.
- Military identification
- Other government documents such as tax bills, licenses, court papers, grade reports, transcripts, which contain the voter's name and current address and are current within 12 months.

For a complete detailed list of acceptable identifications go to www.VoteOhio.gov or the Board of Elections at www.wood.oh.us/BOE.

OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

WOOD COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGING

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage. A renewal of seven-tenths (0.7) mill of an existing levy and an increase of three-tenths (0.3) mill, to constitute a tax for the benefit of Wood County for the purpose of providing or maintaining senior citizen services or facilities by the Wood County Committee on Aging at a rate not exceeding one (1) mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to ten cents (\$0.10) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

FOR THE TAX AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

League of Women Voters

Explanation: The Wood County Committee on Aging is asking voters to approve the current levy of 0.7 mill which collects only 0.57

mill due to reductions of House Bill 920 plus an increase of 0.3 mill. The new levy will bring the amount collected to less than 0.89 mills and non-business credit and owner-occupied credits will remain intact. The levy funds day-to-day expenses including food production and delivery, mortgage and leases, utility bills, supplies, salaries and benefits for staff and programming for older adults. The levy will cost \$27.71 a year for a \$100,000 home and \$20.79 for 65-year and older owners enrolled in the Homestead program.

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (REPLACEMENT)

BOWLING GREEN CITY

A Majority Affirmative Vote Is Necessary For Passage.

A replacement of a tax for the benefit of Bowling Green City for the purpose of providing funds for parks and recreational purposes at a rate not exceeding two (2) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to twenty cents (\$0.20) for each one hundred dollars

of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

League of Women Voters

Explanation: The City of Bowling Green Parks & Recreation Department is asking for a replacement of their current five-year, 2 mil property tax. The dedicated property tax is used for the purpose of providing parks, programs and facilities to the citizens of Bowling Green. This tax generates approximately 35-40% of the department's budget, with the rest of their revenue coming from fees and charges, grants and donations, and a percentage of the City's income. The department provides 11 park facilities, at just under 400 acres, to the community as well as the Community Center, Pool & Water park, shelters, athletic fields, walking trails and both active and passive recreation opportunities for all ages. Usage of parks and services increased significantly during COVID 19. The total cost to the taxpayer for this replacement

levy for a home valued at \$150,000 is \$105 per year, which is an increase of \$20.05 per year from the current levy. The increase is requested partly to offset the impact of COVID 19 on parks and recreation revenue and partly to meet rising costs for operations.

PROPOSED INCOME TAX (RENEWAL)

BOWLING GREEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HENRY AND WOOD COUNTIES

A Majority Affirmative Vote Is Necessary For Passage.

Shall an annual income tax of one half of one percent (0.5%) on the school district income of individuals and of estates be imposed by the Bowling Green City School District to renew an income tax expiring at the end of 2022, for a continuing period of time, beginning January 1, 2023, for the purpose of current expenses?

FOR THE TAX AGAINST THE TAX

League of Women Voters

Explanation: Bowling Green City Schools has placed a request to renew its 0.50% school district income tax on the November 2, 2021 ballot. This is the eighth time residents of the BG school district will have voted on this tax since it was first approved in November 1992. The tax generates approximately \$3.9 million per year to support the general operations of the district. The tax was previously presented as a temporary levy requiring renewal every five years. The November 2021 ballot request seeks to convert the temporary levy into a continuing levy at the same tax rate. The purpose of the continuing term is to eliminate the number of times taxpayers are required to vote on the existing levy. This will reduce ballot fatigue and the associated costs of continually placing the levy on the ballot. In addition, by making this a continuing levy, the Board of Education can free up reserves for additional educational purposes.



Board of Education



BOWLING GREEN CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL BOARD: Two to be elected

Term four years beginning January 1, 2022

Norman J. Geer
Ryan Myers
Jessica Swaisgood
Peggy Thompson

QUESTION #1: What are the most important tasks of school board members?

QUESTION #2: How would you encourage effective communication between the school administration and the community?

QUESTION #3: What future steps should the school board take in regard to school buildings?

QUESTION #4: As a school board member, what do diversity and inclusivity in the schools mean to you?



NORMAN J. GEER

Candidate for Board of Education,
 Bowling Green School District

MAILING ADDRESS: 105 N. Main Street,
 Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL:

geerlaw@amplex.net

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EDUCATION: Bowling Green Public
 Schools, Miami University and
 Cornell Law School

QUALIFICATIONS: Lifelong member of the Bowling Green community. Active law practice. Member of the Bowling Green City Schools Board of Education, currently serving as president.

ANSWER #1: There are eight essential areas on which the Board needs to focus:

VISION: describing what we want our school district to become and how we will focus on student achievement as our top priority.

STANDARDS: setting the targets for what we want students to learn and to be able to do.

ASSESSMENT: determining whether we are achieving our goals for student achievement and whether students are learning.

ACCOUNTABILITY: taking responsibility for the outcomes of our decisions and actions.

ALIGNMENT: deciding how our district's human and financial resources should be used.

CLIMATE: ensuring safe and orderly classrooms where students can learn and teachers can teach.

COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS: bringing people together to solve common problems and to support common successes.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: questioning, examining, revising, refining, and revisiting.

ANSWER #2: Communication is a two-way street. Navigating

and traveling on that street is not easy. Efforts must be made by the administration to effectively provide information to the community about the schools. The Board should establish a communication policy and a communications department. This would free up the administration to focus on the actual job of educating our students. The community would receive current and relevant information and be afforded the opportunity to respond.

The communications department would take advantage of all social media. The website would be up-to-date and revised daily. There could be publications, newsletters, reports about citizens' groups and committees, surveys and other relevant information. We should let the professional communicators get the word out and the professional educators concentrate on education.

ANSWER #3: We have contracted with an architectural firm which specializes in school buildings to perform an on-site review of the facilities, current conditions and possible constraints. They will also facilitate an educational visioning process which will focus on how construction can support the curriculum delivery goals. There will be a community engagement process to share the critical facilities data and to gather stakeholder preferences regarding facility improvements. The architects will also develop a district's facilities master plan that summarizes all recommended improvements and related budgets. In other words, we're going to find out what we need and involve the community in the decision-making process. We know that at least half of the community likes the neighborhood elementary schools. A question to be determined is whether the community would support a new high school.

ANSWER #4: This is what I love about Bowling Green. We have a diverse community. We welcome diversity. It's a part of who we are. But it is also important to "walk the walk." We have students from different racial, religious, economic and educational backgrounds. This diversity must be recognized and embraced as we do our job to educate each and every student to the fullest extent possible. That is the challenge of public education. Furthermore, it is essential that everyone is included in the process and be a part of the educational community. We must involve the parents in this process. Inclusivity is not just a slogan. It is a requirement which must be met in order to fulfill our responsibility to educate all of the youth of Bowling Green.



RYAN MYERS

Candidate for Board of Education,
 Bowling Green School District

MAILING ADDRESS: 1538 Muirfield
 Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: ryanmyers2424@
 yahoo.com

OCCUPATION: Supervisor of Special
 Education, Penta Career Center

EDUCATION: Masters in Educational

Administration- BGSU - Bachelors in Teaching (Special Ed)- BGSU
QUALIFICATIONS: Superintendent License - 22 Years in Education

- 17 Years in Education Administration - Parent of 2 BGCS Students -
 Member of Athletic Advisory Board and Facilities Committee

ANSWER #1: There are many important tasks required by school board members. A first priority is the responsibility of the hiring and evaluation of both the superintendent and treasurer. Because these two positions are so key to the success of a district, this is one of the most important tasks. Board members are also responsible for setting district policy and help set both short-term and long-term goals of the district. Other tasks are adopting and overseeing the budget, approving contracts with outside vendors, overseeing construction and managing the collective bargaining process for the employees of the district. Good school board members are responsive and good stewards of the district's finances. Board members should be able to listen to others' perspectives and work collaboratively with differing views. I believe board members should be able to articulate clearly their opinions.

ANSWER #2: Communication is key in building the relationship and trust between the school district and the community. Working in the school system myself, I understand that the community (and parents) get frustrated when they do not feel like they are being communicated with. Therefore, I believe it is essential for the communication to be frequent and cover everything from policy changes, testing protocols, schedules and district news to name a few. The community should have easy access to this communication and in various formats such as email, news blasts and social media. I also believe that we as a district can contribute to this effective communication by frequently celebrating the many good things that are occurring within the district. Celebrating our successes makes the community feel included. We as a district, also need to be receptive to feedback and questions from our community.

ANSWER #3: Currently, I sit on the Core Advisory Committee for our district's facilities. This group is composed of various perspectives from a cross section of our community. We will be on the leadership team to build this committee to an even wider range of people that will involve community members from a variety of differences (rural/urban, younger/older, male/female, past supporters of district endeavors/people that have historically opposed district endeavors, and teachers/non-educators). Finally, we will open this up to the entire community for input. Our goal is to bring our community together and identify common interests and needs so that we can move forward together to address our district facilities. At the point we are able to move forward with a building project, it is the responsibility of the district administrators to maintain and care for the investment we will make.

ANSWER #4: As a board member, I want all students to feel welcome and included in our district. I want all students to feel, "Bobcat Proud!" Diversity and inclusivity mean accepting and embracing our differences. It is important for our schools to create an environment with awareness and inclusion to help all students succeed regardless of differences. As a board member, it is my job to ask questions and



Board of Education



know what our district is doing to ensure all students have the ability and means for success in Bowling Green City Schools.



JESSICA SWAISGOOD

Candidate for Board of Education,
Bowling Green School District

MAILING ADDRESS: 499 West Truman
Street, Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL:
SwaisgoodforChange@gmail.com

WEBSITE: [http://](http://SwaisgoodforBGChange.org)

SwaisgoodforBGChange.org

FACEBOOK: <http://SwaisgoodforBGChange.org>

OCCUPATION: Operations Manager for a Non-Profit

EDUCATION: MA in Organizational Management with a
Specialization in Human Resource Management

QUALIFICATIONS: *Parent not a Politician *Kids attend BG
city schools *Proven Leadership *Accountability *Active Listener
*Involved in Non-profit leadership for over 20 years.

ANSWER #1: Most importantly I feel they listen and remember who they represent and work for. The school board is representation of the community. The school board members are the seats at the table for the community and need to act accordingly. Secondly, to ensure children in the schools are educated to the fullest extent possible. This requires thinking outside of the box and coming up with what can be done instead of what cannot be done. Third, the school board needs to hold administration accountable for leadership. The administration is to present well thought out plans to the board for decision making. The board is not intended to do the planning for the schools, but for making well informed decisions on what plans should and will be carried out.

ANSWER #2: First, trust needs to be built back between the community and the Bowling Green Schools. Without trust, effective communication cannot be possible. With this trust their needs to be accountability. Mistakes happen and you admit to those and move on. Living in the past does not help the present and certainly not the future. Communication needs to be clear and concise. Mixed messages cannot be sent saying one thing then doing something different. It takes trust away from the community and has a lasting negative impact. Holding community forums and Coffee chats again are important, along with the Friday messages that used to go out. This allows the public to be heard, as well as be a positive representation of our district. This needs to be ongoing and cannot just be happening when a levy needs to be passed.

ANSWER #3: The community has spoken on what they want to have

happen with the BG city schools. The buildings need to be fixed, and updated so that our kids can have the best environment for learning in the current community schools. Many hours and dollars were already spent on getting the communities input. This input needs to be reviewed and acted on. Planning needs to happen immediately and I would prioritize with the needs that currently have to be addressed so children are no longer missing school due to heat, or other temperature issues. Our kids have fallen so far behind with last year. Missing even one day of school is a problem and needs to be treated as such. We must make the best education possible in our current community schools and I believe it can be done under the right leadership.

ANSWER #4: I have spent my career advocating for those who do not always have a Voice. Whether it be students with disabilities, children in the system, or other minorities I feel that we need to ensure our school district is all inclusive and has the best possible supportive learning environment for each and every student who walks through our doors. We always need to be fair to students. Being fair to me means that not all students get the same. Fair to me is we meet each and every student where they are and give them the education, the tools, and the experience that works best for them. We have to be done with the one size fits all model. If we can get to this point then we already meet many needs of the students and families regardless of the abilities they have, the size of their bank account, or the color of their skin.



PEGGY THOMPSON

Candidate for Board of Education,
Bowling Green School District

MAILING ADDRESS: 559 Sand Ridge
Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL:
bgbobcatproud@gmail.com

WEBSITE: [http://](http://peggythompson4bgschoolboard.com)

peggythompson4bgschoolboard.com

OCCUPATION: Retired

EDUCATION: BA and MBA from

Heidelberg College

QUALIFICATIONS: Accounts payable for BG Schools for 32 years—
understand appropriations Was on the negotiation team for OAPSE
#311 for several contracts Grandparent of several current BG students

ANSWER #1: Adopting the annual budget (and understanding it), exercising the school's taxing power, acting upon the Superintendent's and Treasurer's recommendations, and informing the public of the school's needs and progress. The Board also hires and evaluates the Superintendent and Treasurer. These duties are outlined in the Ohio

Revised Code and can be found on the school website. Of all of the duties, I am hearing from taxpayers that we are not as strong as we could be when it comes to informing the public. Board agendas need to be posted online several days in advance of the Board meeting. I realize that there will always be last minute additions, but the main issues should be available for the public to view days before the meeting. Also, all MAJOR items must be listed on the agenda, giving the public time to evaluate and educate themselves on the items that concern them.

ANSWER #2: Much of the communication between the administration and the community is handled at the monthly school board meetings. The community can log onto the school website (bgcs.k12.oh.us) and see what is being discussed and decided that month. More information needs to be available to the community before it is acted upon. A list of long-term and short-term goals would be helpful. When extra money is received, there would be a plan of action already established. Transparency is needed from all departments. Encouraging community volunteerism in our schools would also help. When I volunteer, I feel more connected to the school and understand some of the issues that need to be addressed. All of us want to be heard and our opinions valued. The Board should be the connection between the administration and the community. All Board members live in the district! They are accessible!

ANSWER #3: We need to look at our current buildings and see if we are maintaining them as we should. We will be using these buildings for the next few years, no matter what is decided in the future. We need to expand our tax base. Should we petition the State of Ohio to provide funds for all the land and buildings that are State owned (BGSU, ODOT, etc), and thus don't pay property tax to the schools? Should Wood County provide funds annually for the property taxes that are not collected from their buildings (all Wood County offices, courthouse, etc)? New businesses that come to our area pay their share of taxes to provide for the schools. The current tax base is only able to maintain a certain level of income to the schools. We need to be sure that whatever is decided in the future, we can sustain it. Discussion and planning will be needed to determine the best outcome for our community.

ANSWER #4: Diversity and inclusivity in any arena speak to equal access to opportunities. Equal doesn't look at differences. Equal is there for everyone, no matter if we are all the same or all of us are different. Our students need to be students, not numbers in a category. The current vision statement on the school's website states "Provide excellent instruction and equitable opportunities for each student." My proposal is to have this mission statement for our schools - Providing instruction and equal opportunities to all students, helping them ensure their future as productive citizens.

BOWLING GREEN COUNCIL AT LARGE

BG Council At Large Two to be elected

Term four years beginning January 1, 2022

Mark Hollenbaugh
Gregory Robinette

QUESTION #1: What does sustainability mean to you? What is your plan for making Bowling Green a sustainable community?

QUESTION #2: What kind of regulations (registration, inspection, licensing, enforcement) should council approve to assure tenants that their rentals are safe? What minimum standards should all rentals meet?

QUESTION #3: Bowling Green's infrastructure (streets, sidewalks,

water, sewers, utilities, trees, parks) must be continually maintained and improved. What are your suggestions for improving the city's infrastructure and how would you fund these improvements?

QUESTION #4: How can city council encourage more businesses and industries to (re)locate to Bowling Green? What are other nearby communities doing to encourage new businesses?



City Council



MARK HOLLENBAUGH

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, At-Large

PARTY: Democratic

MAILING ADDRESS: 315 Parkview Drive, Lot 92, Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL:

markforcouncil@yahoo.com

FACEBOOK: <http://Councilmember Mark Hollenbaugh>

OCCUPATION: Teacher

EDUCATION: Both a Bachelors and Masters degree from BGSU.

QUALIFICATIONS: I'm currently serving as the first ward council member and as council president.

ANSWER #1: I believe sustainability is about making decisions today that will not jeopardize our future. People need clean air, water, and a stable ecosystem in order to thrive. This year, city council passed a resolution to create a climate action plan for the City of Bowling Green. Over the next couple years, a committee of knowledgeable citizens will draft a plan with the intention of Bowling Green being carbon neutral before the middle of this decade. As energy technologies improve the Bowling Green will continue to embrace opportunities to upgrade our capabilities and incorporate these technologies into new construction projects and city services. The City of Bowling Green has been a leader in the region on sustainability issues such as recycling and renewable energy in large part because of our citizens and their commitment to a clean and sustainable future.

ANSWER #2: The quality of rental properties in Bowling Green has been a topic of discussion for decades. It has been a controversial issue and as a result little progress has been made. The very first task I assigned to committee upon being elected council president in January of 2020 was registration and inspection of rental properties. The registration portion of the legislation was passed earlier this year and the inspection component is expected to be enacted this Fall. The purpose of registration and inspection of rental properties is to correct bad practices seen by some property owners without creating a huge bureaucracy and punishing the majority of property owners who provide needed quality housing to residents. Ideally, rentals in Bowling Green should be safe, clean, updated, enhance their neighborhoods, and meet the diverse housing needs of citizens.

ANSWER #3: I feel the maintenance and expansion of the city's infrastructure impacts both quality of life issues and our economic prosperity. Sadly, whenever there is economic uncertainty these are areas where funding cuts happen and projects are delayed. Fortunately, the actual economic impact of Covid has not been as devastating to the city's finances as was originally forecast and anticipated economic growth looks promising. The city's parks continue to be funded through the generosity of our taxpayers and are one of our community's greatest assets. The city's utility infrastructure has always been a priority and is continually being maintained and upgraded. Streets and sidewalks are always a challenge, however, council is working on ways to streamline the process and provide mobility throughout the city for pedestrians,

bicyclists, and motorists.

ANSWER #4: I believe Bowling Green has tremendous potential to attract businesses and industries in the coming decades. In order to attract business, we will need to have commercial and industrial spaces available. Businesses are looking for quality, reliable, low cost utilities, proximity to transportation networks, and educated workers. Bowling Green being between the Port of Toledo and CSX intermodal hub, and being on I-75, gives us an ideal location. Through our economic development partnerships, we are able to offer economic incentives including tax abatements and discounted utility rates. As businesses become increasingly dependent on employees with technology-based skills I believe our educated workforce allows us to fill the diverse employee needs for any business. Bowling Green needs to be prepared, agile, and accommodating in order to attract new businesses in the dynamic modern economy.



GREGORY W. ROBINETTE

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, At-Large

PARTY: No response

MAILING ADDRESS: 1501 Cardinal Rd., Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL:

greg.robinette@gmail.com

OCCUPATION: Patent Attorney, Retire Army Colonel

EDUCATION: JD, UT College of Law, Masters Degree,

US Army War College, BS, Purdue University

QUALIFICATIONS: Leadership, business, and government experience: two terms on City Council, 5 years Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals, Engineer, Attorney, and 32 year Army veteran.

ANSWER #1: As a patent attorney, I have obtained patent protection for clients in the wind energy, solar panel, and nuclear energy industries. I understand the benefits and opportunities that these energy sources provide. Further, the citizens of BG have a lot to be proud of regarding renewable energy. BG provides a reliable, sustainable, and cost competitive electric system for our customers, built renewable energy projects, and provides customer programs that implement our efforts for clean energy and environmental stewardship. Significantly, 40% of our electric energy is from renewable resources, exceeding State and National averages. Our robust recycling program and a Pilot Food Waste Drop Off program are well received and well used. Additionally, city council directed the city to investigate if and how we can reach the aspirational goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the future.

ANSWER #2: The question of rental inspections has challenged the city for years. I was encouraged by the first draft of the Ordinance dealing with Rental Dwelling Registration and Inspection, and its provisions for a self-certification program. It is also true that I was the sole vote against the ordinance creating the rental registration program because I felt it was being treated as a precursor to an inspection regime that had not yet been vetted or approved. More importantly, this matter

is still under discussion and the rental registration ordinance has not yet been introduced to council because the Mayor has asked for time for the city to consider the implications and options for a proposed third party inspection component. I believe that this study by the city is prudent and I will withhold my decision on whether to support the legislation until a final draft is introduced to council.

ANSWER #3: The city does an admirable job of ensuring that each annual budget includes an appropriate allocation for infrastructure. But it is unfair to characterize the city's efforts to maintain and improve its infrastructure as a problem needing to be solved. The portions of the budget allocated to infrastructure items, e.g., roads, sidewalks, and trails must, however, be constantly monitored and adjusted for changing circumstances. The city's website has a Capital Projects page with information about water, sewer, paving, multi-department, and future projects. As chair of the City Council Finance and Ways and Means Committee, I work with the city administration and my council colleagues to ensure that an appropriate portion of each annual budget includes funds sufficient to repair and maintain our infrastructure, and that maintains the quality of life our citizens expect and deserve.

ANSWER #4: Economic Development is crucial to our success as a city. Council has the opportunity and the obligation to work with businesses directly, and through organizations such as the BG Chamber, Downtown BG, and BG Economic Development to ensure that we do everything we can to help businesses succeed and to attract new businesses. One of the most important tools at our disposal is the Zoning Code, and we soon will consider the changes being drafted. With this key task we have a unique and important opportunity to set the conditions for economic development and growth, eliminate confusing and contradictory language, and provide important clarity to the requirements, limitations, and definitions of each zoning district, and to establish clear expectations for anyone who reads the Zoning Code, including developers, and entities such as the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

BG Council Ward 1 One to be elected

Term two years beginning January 1, 2022

Mark R. Hanson
Nick Rubando

QUESTION #1: What does sustainability mean to you? What is your plan for making Bowling Green a sustainable community?

QUESTION #2: What kind of regulations (registration, inspection, licensing, enforcement) should council approve to assure tenants that their rentals are safe? What minimum standards should all rentals meet?

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QUESTION #4: How can city council encourage more businesses and industries to (re)locate to Bowling Green? What are other nearby communities doing to encourage new businesses?



City Council



MARK R. HANSON

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, Ward 1

PARTY: Republican

MAILING ADDRESS: 122 E. Evers Ave., Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: mhanson8011@gmail.com

OCCUPATION: Court Constable

EDUCATION: Bachelors of Science in

Education- B.G.S.U. Ohio State Highway Patrol Basic Police Academy
QUALIFICATIONS: I'm a BGSU grad. and long time B.G. resident. I worked as a Police Officer for the City for over 25 years. I will bring a prayerful, levelheaded approach to City Council.

ANSWER #1: I believe in a balanced approach to sustainability. To commit to "zero" carbon would be a mistake. I like the idea of generating electricity through wind, solar, geothermal and hydro. I have a lot of questions and concerns. How expensive is the infrastructure to set up such a system? (3X more expensive?) Will such a system be stable enough to provide reliable electricity? Are carbon producing sources really that bad on the environment? Are the citizens of Bowling Green going to mind if their electric bill goes up 3X under a "zero" carbon system? Is it wise for the City to replace a perfectly good BACK UP diesel generator at the police station with a battery/solar backup? Will the City be able to attract more businesses if the cost of electricity goes up 3X? I say, lets make sure it makes sense financially and functionally before we commit to an anti-carbon "trendy" plan.

ANSWER #2: I do not believe Council needs to do anything in this regard. There is already a system in place if a tenant believes there is a problem with the unit they are renting and they are not getting the desired response from the owner. The tenant can make a filing at the B.G. Municipal Court and deposit their rent check into an escrow account. The Judge can release the money to the owner once the issues have been fixed/resolved. City Council needs to be careful not to overstep their bounds with regards to mandatory or even random "voluntary" inspections. Again there is already a system in place for suspected problem rental properties. An administrative search warrant can be applied for and if obtained an inspection can be performed.

ANSWER #3: Maintaining and improving infrastructure should be one of the primary uses of tax dollars. If improvements such as roundabouts can be partially funded by federal and state grants then all the better. Is the City applying for all the grants that are available? I will be advocating for a new City park in my ward, near the Maple Hills and Parkview trailer parks. There is a three acre green space behind the Dollar Tree that would be ideal for a park to bless the kids in that area! Perhaps a partnership could be formed between private donors and the City to make that happen!

ANSWER #4: I think the main thing City Council can do is say "YES" when new businesses and industries want to locate in Bowling Green. The only exception would be when it comes to bars. We DO NOT need any more bars! I remember years ago when Best Buy wanted to put their distribution warehouse in Bowling Green. City Council voted it

down and they went to Findlay. How about some more chain restaurants such as Outback, Longhorn, Olive Garden etc. Why didn't City Council do more to attract Cabela's when they were searching for a location? Kudos to the current City Council for purchasing 90 more acres on the east end industrial area! Bringing more industry to Bowling Green will not only help the City but it will help the BG school system which has been struggling to pass a levy. Congratulations to the Eastwood school district for getting the Home Depot warehouse and the Peloton factory!



NICK RUBANDO

Candidate for City Council, Ward 1

PARTY: Democratic

MAILING ADDRESS: 220 E. Court St., Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: us@nickrubando.com

WEBSITE: <http://nickrubando.com>

FACEBOOK: <http://facebook.com/rubandoforchange>

OCCUPATION: Metroparks Toledo

EDUCATION: St. John's Jesuit High School, Indiana University BA Journalism

QUALIFICATIONS: I have volunteered in our community by organizing river and stream cleanups, fundraisers for children's arts programs, food drives, and voter registration drives.

ANSWER #1: Sustainability is the balance between the environment, equity, and the economy. Our community must continue our commitment to renewable energy, and improve alternative transportation options for our residents. Investing in our environment is not only necessary, it provides a fantastic opportunity for our local economy. We must build bike lanes, establish new green spaces, expand our recycling program, and make good on our commitment to ensure net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

ANSWER #2: We need real rental reform in our community. I agree with the rental standards laid out by the BG City Council Community Improvement Committee, when they approved the rental registration checklist recently, but I would go further and push for independent inspections. I have had first hand experience dealing with a landlord that had no intention of following the safety guidelines put forth by the council, and that can not stand. I know the majority of landlords in this city want to do the right thing, but to ensure the health and safety of our community, we must have independent inspections of rental properties.

ANSWER #3: By investing in our infrastructure, we have the ability to keep Bowling Green an amazing place to live for years to come. We can re visit our zoning laws, build new parks, including dog parks, and inclusive play structures, and ensure that we continue to have clean safe drinking water. The US Congress is about to pass the bi-partisan infrastructure deal, as well as, the climate focused reconciliation package. These legislative achievements will provide funds for the exact types of infrastructure projects we hope to accomplish. As a member of council, I will ensure that Bowling Green takes advantage of

these funds, and we continue to improve our great city.

ANSWER #4: By revitalizing our neighborhoods, establishing new zoning laws, committing to sustainability and investing in infrastructure, we have the ability to attract and retain new residents and business to Bowling Green. I have been very impressed with what council has done with our outdoor seating "parklet" program, and I will continue to push for innovative ways to improve our community.

BG Council Ward 2 One to be elected

Term two years beginning January 2, 2022

Joel O'Doriso (Unopposed)

QUESTION #1: What does sustainability mean to you? What is your plan for making Bowling Green a sustainable community?

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QUESTION #4: How can city council encourage more businesses and industries to (re)locate to Bowling Green? What are other nearby communities doing to encourage new businesses?



JOEL O'DORISO

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, Ward 2. UNOPPOSED

PARTY: Democratic

MAILING ADDRESS: 1001 Napoleon Rd., Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: Joelodo1@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://Joelforohio.com>

FACEBOOK: <http://Joel4ohio>

OCCUPATION: Professor

EDUCATION: BFA the Ohio State University MFA Alfred University SUNY

QUALIFICATIONS: No response

ANSWER #1: We need to think about the future as a community. Years ago we were at the forefront of experimental wind energy and sustainability, but we have lost our way. Moving forward we need to focus on an energy plan that accounts for the developing transition to renewable sources, and is economically viable in order to attract new businesses to our city. Further we should be exploring waste and recycling programs to reduce our solid waste burden.

ANSWER #2: As a resident of ward 2 I understand the importance of having reasonable and enforceable regulations for safe housing in the rental properties in BG. From aesthetic concerns about building upkeep to make sure our community is a good place to live, to fundamental safety issues to make sure that families in our community have safe



City Council



and healthy homes to raise kids or attend our university.

ANSWER #3: I would like to improve our public transportation infrastructure. Families in BG should have access to surrounding communities, and we should be able to attract workers and potential employees from surrounding communities. I would also like to make our community more accessible for walking and bike riding. We have been exploring for years how to add bike lanes and reduce traffic.

ANSWER #4: Probably the easiest way to attract and diversify our businesses is to improve our internet infrastructure. We have seen a remarkable shift to at home work and internet substitution for many traditionally face to face activities. We must ensure that our internet infrastructure is up to the task of the 22nd century if we are going to be attracting high visibility, hi tech employers to our city

BG Council Ward 3 One to be elected

Term two years beginning January 1, 2022

Tony J. Hunter
Rachel Phipps

QUESTION #1: What does sustainability mean to you? What is your plan for making Bowling Green a sustainable community?

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QUESTION #4: How can city council encourage more businesses and industries to (re)locate to Bowling Green? What are other nearby communities doing to encourage new businesses?



TONY J. HUNTER

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, Ward 3

PARTY: Republican

MAILING ADDRESS: 1547 Gleneagles Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: info@TonyHunter.org

WEBSITE: <http://TonyHunter.org>

OCCUPATION: Finance Manager

(Real Estate)

EDUCATION: Finance Undergraduate (BGSU), MBA (BGSU)

QUALIFICATIONS: Corporate Finance experience working in health care real estate investments. Experience in software and data analytics.

ANSWER #1: I believe it is important that we value responsible environmental sustainability. I agree with common sense programs and initiatives that protect the environment and keep the city clean. I also would like Bowling Green to be viewed as a "business friendly"

town where development is encouraged. I enjoy solving problems and making smart investments. I look forward to looking at opportunities in the area of sustainability that are cost effective for citizens and promote business development.

ANSWER #2: It is my understanding that we have a process in place to remedy tenant/landlord issues related to quality of housing. I would prefer a limited, but effective approach to dealing with this issue, if anything additional is needed. One approach that I might favor would be making the information for the current process more accessible for tenants and landlords.

ANSWER #3: I think it is important to spend time listening and learning from the groups that are "in the weeds" in this area. I would be in favor of moving towards a shared vision for Bowling Green in terms of business development and the infrastructure to support growth. The opposite strategy would be more reactive and short-term focused. Ideally, we would look at our "current state" and work towards an agreed upon direction. I'm sure there are many discussions happening related to this, and I would love to partner with the city to help move things forward!

ANSWER #4: I think this is related to my infrastructure comments. I would be in favor of moving towards a shared vision for business development. This would give us a framework that we can use to recruit businesses to Bowling Green and support the growth of our current businesses. I would be in favor of limited and effective legislation that would provide structure but not overburden business owners.



RACHEL PHIPPS

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, Ward 3

PARTY: Democratic

MAILING ADDRESS: 920 Clark St., Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: rhs.phipps@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

<http://www.phippsforcouncilward3.com>

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/RachelPhippsBGThirdWard>

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EDUCATION: Capital U. Law School, Tax LL.M.; U. of Toledo College of Law, J.D.; Miami U., B.A.

QUALIFICATIONS: Curiosity, Empathy, Work Ethic

ANSWER #1: Sustainability is a very important issue to me, which is why I drafted the resolution calling for our city's first sustainability plan to measure and curb our greenhouse gas emissions. That resolution passed unanimously in July and the process for crafting our plan will begin this year.

It is clear that the state and federal government will increasingly regulate greenhouse gas emissions more aggressively and prioritize sustainability projects. It is the responsible, forward-thinking thing to do for our citizens and taxpayers to look at this issue comprehensively now.

Making BG more sustainable not only touches many aspects of our city's operations, but many quality of life issues for our citizens as well – a sustainable Bowling Green is more vibrant and inclusive, resilient and resourceful.

ANSWER #2: A rental registration/self-inspection program like that proposed by Mayor Aspacher can help to protect the health and safety of tenants; identify deficient rentals; encourage preventative maintenance; and preserve property values and neighborhoods. The proposed program requires landlords to register rental units and regularly inspect the interior/exterior of units. Critical provisions concern tenant education and the city's ability to verify self-inspection forms through city-conducted inspections. To date, council has received testimony from 200+ tenants by email, survey, and in person; landlords submitted comments; and local media, concerned citizens, and the community at large have monitored this issue closely – making the proposal better. I encourage our community to remain involved as we roll out any program so that we continuously improve, using our limited resources wisely.

ANSWER #3: Infrastructure and fiscal responsibility are some of the most basic duties of city government. I've taken both responsibilities seriously during my first term.

Over the next few years, we will have an opportunity to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for infrastructure improvements, including our road and sidewalk repaving programs. While infrastructure improvements are certainly a good use of ARPA funds, I also intend to call for ARPA funds to be directed more broadly to other qualifying purposes. This is because one important way to increase funds available to improve our infrastructure is by expanding our tax base. We grow our tax base when our city makes smart investments to help new businesses open their doors and existing businesses to expand, and by continuously looking for new ways to make BG an attractive place to live and work.

ANSWER #4: We must be willing to use tax incentives strategically and learn from other cities' creative efforts – and we must get everyone on the same page by updating the city's economic development plan (last revisited in the '90s!). Our 2019 E. Wooster Plan states, "The national economy is changing, but Bowling Green has not adapted its approach to economic development." In addition to recruiting industry to the edge of town, our city must support a vibrant downtown, create an environment where new/existing businesses can thrive, and proactively encourage redevelopment along E. Wooster. And our efforts must be big and small. I was part of a team that worked with three downtown businesses to install our city's first parklets. This relatively small project was completed with the support of 70+ private donations and immediately benefited those businesses and the surrounding downtown.

BG Council Ward 4 One to be elected

Term two years beginning January 1, 2022

William J. Herald
Sandra Rowland



City Council



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WILLIAM J. HERALD

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, Ward 4

PARTY: Republican

MAILING ADDRESS: 1030 Conneaut Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL:
williamjherald@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.williamjherald.org>

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/williamjherald>

williamjherald

OCCUPATION: Data Scientist for First Solar

EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Public Policy & Management (Ohio State), M.A., M.S., B.S. (all BGSU).

QUALIFICATIONS: 12th year as FOURTH WARD Council Member, former President Pro Tem, former Acting Mayor, 46 Fourth Ward quarterly meetings, 28 years business experience, 44 years BG resident.

ANSWER #1: To me, sustainability encompasses actions involving being a faithful, good steward of the environment. Moving BG forward involves a number of different actions, e.g., education, incentives, structure, and planning. I was on Council when we started curbside recycling. This year, I sent a proposal to the city administration to look into starting a city income tax credit for those who have residential green energy which is tied to our electric grid. Also, I initiated action to reorganize Council's seven Council Committees (although Committees rarely change; they can). Thanks to Council's agreement, we now have a Sustainability Council Committee. We are now better able to handle sustainability opportunities in the future; including future recommendations from Council-initiated, to-be-developed Climate Action Plan. (More detail can be found in my Spring 2021 Fourth Ward Newsletter.)

ANSWER #2: The Community Improvement Committee of Council with myself as an active member has spent many hours on this important issue. We produced a series of recommendations which consist of a "multi-faceted, multi-phased approach which emphasizes communication, takes measured/proportional steps, and is forward looking." There are two major components to the solution: registration

and inspection. Council has passed rental registration. Council and the administration are now working on inspection, e.g., a mixture of owner/tenant self-inspection and third-party inspection with fines for violations. Hopefully, by the end of the year we should complete this significant step forward in improving safety. The minimum standards are outlined in a Committee-approved checklist of fifty-one items; including a number of important safety-related items. [Current draft can be found on my Web site, LWV tab.]

ANSWER #3: Relatively speaking, we are most challenged by our need to maintain streets and sidewalks. Related to city money, our first 1.5% (of 2%) of income tax is mandated to various funds (think of a pie with different-sized slices). For decades, there has been a healthy hesitancy to adjust these percentages. I believe the time has come to carefully, and deeply, analyze making an adjustment. We have 5% (of the 1.5% income tax) allocated to "Street Repair Fund." If we carefully increase that and change it to "Street/Sidewalk Repair Fund," that will give us a boost. However, that means decreasing one or more other "slices." That's one reason why we need careful, analytic, laser-focused consideration, citizen input, and citizen approval. However, it is not unreasonable to think that our needs have changed from the 1970s. Note that this does not increase taxes, it reallocates existing taxes.

ANSWER #4: Years ago, I was asked to develop a Council Policy on economic assistance to business and industry. The resulting unanimously-passed policy states, in part, "[I]t is the policy of this Council to encourage proper economic development for Bowling Green." This remains my guiding policy. [See my Web site, LWV tab, for full policy.] All communities should pursue tailored periodic strategic planning (including strengths). We have done that. One of our major strengths is having our own municipal utilities to market. Another strength is our diversity of organizations devoted to attracting business/industry. Council works well with these organizations. Council should also move forward in improving the community. For example, as part of our planning, Council has prioritized updating our zoning code. This should make it both easier and more desirable for businesses/industry to locate to BG.



SANDRA ROWLAND

Candidate for Bowling Green City Council, Ward 4

PARTY: Democratic

MAILING ADDRESS: 200 Larchwood Drive Bowling Green, OH 43402

CAMPAIGN EMAIL: Rowland for Council 1132 Lyn Rd Bowling Green OH 43402

FACEBOOK: <http://facebook.com/sandyrowlandfor4thwardcouncil>

OCCUPATION: Real Estate Agent

EDUCATION: Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green State University, Hondros College

QUALIFICATIONS: Ten years on Bowling Green City Council. Finance Committee, Chair of Parks and Recreation. Successful Business Woman, Award winning Realtor, Outstanding Citizen of the Year, 2020.

ANSWER #1: Sustainability is extremely important to me. I want BG to meet its needs without compromising future generations from meeting their needs. Bowling Green is a sustainable community! With 40% of our electric coming from renewable resources we far exceed the national and state average. Our 165 acre solar field is largest in Ohio. Our wind farm was first in Ohio. We also purchase hydropower that amounts to 35% of our electric needs. Our water treatment plant uses the best technology and our wastewater plant has updated to reduce pollutants to improve our watershed. Our recycling has greatly expanded to include food wastes. We have 7,600 city owned trees and 124 acres in nature preserves. We are fortunate to have a director of sustainability. Every department within the city strives for more sustainability. We will soon be seeing a fleet of hybrid vehicles used by our police department.

ANSWER #2: After some forty years of discussing the need for rental registration and inspection the current city council has passed legislation mandating all rental properties be registered with the city. Registration is currently taking place. City council is now engaged in passing legislation requiring inspections. I favor having third party oversight on self-inspections. I favor strict enforcement with substantial fines for any rental property owner who makes false claims about the condition of their property. Inspections should show compliance with all building, housing, health and safety codes. Repairs should be made to keep dwelling fit and habitable including electrical, plumbing, sanitary, heating, fixtures and appliances. Legislation is on hold while The Mayor secures the support of all city departments, including the police and fire department that will be involved in enforcement.

ANSWER #3: Bowling Green, is unique in that we have a mandate on how income tax dollars must be used. This formula was devised years ago and is included in our City Charter. By law we must follow this formula. The largest amount, 37.5%, goes to the General Fund. The second highest amount goes toward the sewer and water capital fund, making our monthly water bills much less than other communities. The remainder of tax dollars go to fire, police, street repair, capital funds and recreation. The advantages of having this distribution allows for routine maintenance of our infrastructure and keeps politics out of it. What Bowling Green lacks in infrastructure is housing. Our housing stock is sparse and it is old. We must have more new housing in order to attract more businesses and residents. Our new zoning laws along with adding tax incentives are the path to attracting more house construction.

ANSWER #4: Bowling Green has much to offer businesses: reasonably priced electricity, location on a major interstate highway, a university, and technical schools. So far this has led to success in attracting industry. The city lacks enough adequate housing for new business employees. A priority for the city must be to attract investors in new housing subdivisions. City Council met with consultants to hear about new incentives for Community Development and that must be addressed soon. The economic development plan of using tax abatements to lure business to cities is on its way out. In its place is a strategy used by Amazon and other businesses. That is to select cities that are willing to work with companies who want to locate where they can sustain employees. We should be letting businesses know we are willing to work with them to create an ecosystem that allows the city to thrive.