

★★★ Voter Information Guide ★★★

For over 70 years the League of Women Voters of Bowling Green (LWVBG) in partnership with the *Sentinel-Tribune* has provided a Voter Information Guide to inform voters about candidates and issues for general elections. This year that partnership was not possible, so LWVBG is printing this Voter Information Guide. LWVBG is grateful to the donors whose support makes this Voter Information Guide possible.

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

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

Additional information on candidates is available on VOTE411.org, another source for information about candidates and issues as well as general voting information.

For information about LWVBG, go to www.lwvbg.org or email info@lwvbg.org.

Early Voting

Absentee and early voting mean the same thing, which is casting a ballot prior to election day. Any qualified Ohio voter whose registration is up to date is eligible to cast an absentee ballot by mail or vote in person early.

Early Voting In Person Dates and Hours

Voters may vote in person at the Wood County Board of Elections (BOE) at the Wood County Courthouse Atrium Hours for early in person voting are:

- October 11-13: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- October 16-20: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- October 23-27: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- October 30: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- October 31: 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- November 1-3: 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- November 4: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- November 5: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Absentee Vote By Mail Deadlines

Contact the Wood County Board of Elections at (419) 354-9120 to request or download the absentee ballot application any time. Voters are encouraged to submit requests as early as possible to allow plenty of time to receive, vote, and return ballots.

Return the absentee ballot application to the Wood County Board of Elections via mail or place them in the secure 24/7 drop box located near the Wood County Courthouse entrance on N. Summit Street by close of business **October 31**.

Completed ballots may be returned the same way as completed absentee ballot applications. Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than **November 6** and received no later than **November 13**. Hand delivered ballots must be returned to the Wood County Board of Elections office by the close of polls at **7:30 p.m.**

Track absentee ballots at <https://wood-voterview.boe.ohio.gov/VoterView/AbsenteeBallotSearch.do>

Voter ID at the Polls

The law has changed this year. Voters voting in person at a polling place or at the Wood County Board of Elections are required to present any type of license or ID card issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, a valid US Passport book/card, or a military ID (US Military ID, Ohio National Guard ID, or US Department of Veterans Affairs ID). IDs must be unexpired, but do not need a current address as long as the voter's current residential address is on the official list from the Wood County Board of Elections.

Wood County Board of Elections

1 Courthouse Square
Bowling Green, OH 43402
(419) 354-9120
www.wood.co.oh.us/BOE

Questions for All Bowling Green City Races

- Q1.** Should you be elected, what are your top three priorities for your term?
- Q2.** What is your position on the current registration, self-inspection, and enforcement program for rental properties in BG? Do you feel this program is adequate or should it be modified in any way?
- Q3.** The city and Bowling Green State University are intertwined with each other. How can we promote a healthy relationship between town and gown?
- Q4.** How would you ensure BG's access to more affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy?

Candidates for Bowling Green Mayor (Four-year term/Salary: \$30,000)



Michael Aspacher, Democrat

Education: Bowling Green State University
Occupation: Mayor of Bowling Green
Qualifications: Current BG Mayor; Also served five terms on BG City Council (third ward representative)
Email: reelectaspacher@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/aspacherformayor/

A1. Continued economic growth: We've created more than 500 jobs and attracted more than \$90 million in capital investment during my first term as Mayor. I'll continue to aggressively pursue investment that supports our business attraction and retention efforts. Infrastructure and Housing improvement: During my first term we have invested more than \$16 million in infrastructure improvement, including more than \$3 million in street paving. We've also earmarked \$600K for residential housing improvement grants. I'll continue to deliver these type of projects. Quality of life:

More than \$1 million in city park enhancements, \$500K in grants to local non-profit organizations and investment in Downtown improvements are just a start.

A2. My position has been that the current registration and self-inspection program represents an important first step to address longstanding housing concerns. This program creates a responsibility for rental property owners to accurately report the condition of their property and is intended to compel compliance with state and local codes that help ensure safe and healthy housing conditions. Again, it is my belief that self-inspection is a starting point and that it will be important to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. I'm committed to working with both City Council and property owners to develop inspection and enforcement policies that help ensure we are doing all that we can to safeguard our communities housing standards.

A3. It is certainly true that both the City and BGSU benefit when we identify opportunities for collaboration on improvement projects that align with our shared goals. Examples include: investment in modern infrastructure, new school buildings

and our downtown. These type of investments benefit the entire community and help create an environment that is attractive to both BGSU graduates and young families. We must also continue our job creation and retention efforts through economic development. These efforts create opportunities that support our shared vision of a diverse and tolerant community that values education and is attractive to people of all ages.

A4. The Bowling Green community has long supported efforts for investment in sustainable energy resources. We have invested in wind, solar and hydroelectric assets and these efforts have resulted in the City ensuring that more than 40% of our wholesale energy is produced by environmentally friendly sources. We will continue to pursue opportunities for sensible investments in this area while balancing the need to control rate pressures. The reliability of City utilities is a point of emphasis and consistent investment in our treatment plants and distribution infrastructure result in an award winning record of reliability. I will continue to support efforts to promote sustainable practices and discuss how we may address climate change challenges.



Joseph Rosario DeMare, Independent

Education: B.A. English, SUNY at Buffalo; Master of Science Teaching English, D'Youville College

Occupation: Retired, but had broad work experience: Machinist/ computer tech, 10 years; Grant Writer; ASL Interpreter; Owner small wind & solar business; Teacher

Qualifications: Grant writer overseeing multi-million dollar budgets, GCC in Batavia, Co-Chair Wood County Green Party, Past Political Director Ohio Green Party

Email: joe.demare@woodcountyohgreenparty.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/297959106969338

A1. 1) Eliminate BG's regressive energy policies such as the solar panel penalties. I also want to explore refurbishing rather than tearing down our wind turbines. We should not be getting 60% of our power from an expensive, polluting coal plant in Illinois. 2) More than 70% of BG properties

are rentals. We need to encourage more home ownership, and make the City's housing stock safer and more welcoming for renters. This way we will preserve BG's neighborhoods. 3) Strengthen grassroots Democracy in City government. Too many decisions about the future of our City are being made by high priced consultants. We need to open processes up to public scrutiny and input, not present citizens with decisions they are forced to fight.

A2. My friend Neocles Leontis worked very hard on the inspection program before his tragic death. I would work to see his vision come to its full fruition, mandatory inspections that ensure ALL of Bowling Green's housing is safe for renters. Going door-to-door I've heard too many horror stories of inadequate wiring or substandard heating or cooling. Neocles wanted BG rental properties to be safe and well insulated, saving renters money on their heating and cooling bills, while making BG a good place to live and reducing our City's carbon footprint

A3. There are already many good programs in place for promoting mutually beneficial relationships between students and long time residents. The flyers describing tenants' rights that the East Side Neighborhood Group passes out at

the start of the school year are a great example. We must never forget that BG owes much of its prosperity to BGSU. Students should be able to fully enjoy living on their own in our community, but at the same time, we can't let the City be turned into a theme park for partying students. The balance can be struck by having as much personal interaction between town and gown as possible. I will be a mayor for the students living in BG as well as the long time residents, and I will listen to the concerns of everyone.

A4. First, I will appoint new members to the Municipal Utility Board to reverse BG's penalties and limitations on rooftop solar, and cause a clean energy boom. Then, I will attempt to break the City's 50 year contract with the Prairie State coal plant in Illinois. Many of us fought that contract, and we were right. The Rocky Mountain Institute says we can break the contract and still come out ahead by buying inexpensive wind and solar power. We will try to save the City's wind turbines rather than tearing them down. I would like to expand the revolving loan fund with new monies for more loans specifically funding insulation, heat pumps, and other energy efficient technology. Finally, explore new tech like using home batteries for peak shaving.

Candidates for Bowling Green City Council

Ward 1

(2-year term; Salary: \$5000)



David Drain, Republican

Education: BGHS 1970, BA 1974, MA 1976 Mathematics, BGSU, MS Statistics 1980, BGSU, PhD Industrial Engineering, Arizona State 2003

Occupation: Statistician

Qualifications: Committed to improving access to affordable, decent housing for all in BG, long-term area resident, great LISTENER

Email: FriendsOfDavidDrain@gmail.com

A1: Protect and maintain what our residents love most about Bowling Green – safe streets and parks, family-oriented activities, effective emergency services (police, fire, EMT), and reliable utilities. Improve housing opportunities for home buyers and housing quality for renters – I helped found and serve on the board of a new nonprofit, Bowling Green Save Our Neighborhoods Group (BG SONG) with these goals. This work will go far to make BG more appealing to current and prospective residents. Guide the city in partnership with citizens to rational and environmentally conscious development of new Mixed-Use Neighborhoods. This will generate novel business and affordable housing opportunities, while preserving the historic character of our city.

A2. The current approach is a beginning, but it will require rigorous enforcement to make any lasting improvement. The city must be vigilant to discover new conversions of homes to rentals and newly built ADUs. Local community action groups – part of the BG SONG plan – will assist in this effort. Coupled with the city’s new tool to report neglected properties we should see significant improvement in housing quality. If not, a program of targeted rental inspections based on complaints is the next logical step – this would require more staffing in our Planning Department. Mass inspections of all rental properties would be very expensive and should not be necessary if the above steps are undertaken with sufficient discipline.

A3. Revive the City-University Relations Commission and amend the ordinance to reflect the fact that BGSU students and faculty are in fact a valued asset to our community. Build on existing synergy between the residents and business owners of BG, and the faculty and student body at BGSU: apply specialized skills and knowledge from the university to solve some of BG’s problems and give students valuable experience in the real world; enhance student learning with internships at local businesses; build true community between the student population and BG residents through volunteer activities in the city. As a three-time BGSU graduate, former faculty member at a state university and long-time industry worker, I could guide this commission.

A4. Affordable energy is essential both because a third of BG residents live in poverty and manufacturers here compete in the world market. Citizens count on reliable energy; it is also an absolute necessity for factories where an electrical glitch can destroy equipment. Bowling Green now has an energy program based on both traditional and renewable sources. Since sustainable energy is absolutely necessary to keep living on this planet we must investigate ways to lessen our city’s contribution to climate-changing carbon emissions. We must be thoughtful in our choices: consider lifecycle costs as well as installation; balance multiple sources for agility in time of change; and have the flexibility to take advantage of advances in technology.



Damon Sherry, Democrat

Education: Bowling Green State University

Occupation: First-Generation Student, Advocate & Activist

Qualifications: Bachelors in Political Science (Spring 2024), 3 years of community work and organizational experience

Email: sherryforbg@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SherryForBG

A1. 1) Sustainability, transitioning from fluorescent lights to LED lights. Another city in our county is projected to save 9 million dollars annually due to the transfer to greener energy. 2) Accountability

and Safety, I want to ensure that our rental properties are held to the standards set by the city. This means enforcing our rental codes and ensuring landlords are held to a certain standard. 3)

Infrastructure, We need to ensure that our roads and sidewalks are kept up to date to ensure that our citizens are safe and that our streets remain beautiful.

A2. I feel that the program needs to be enhanced in a way that ensures that our rental properties are being held to the standard that Bowling Green has set in place. This means that the program needs to be better enforced and make sure that all rentals in Bowling Green are keeping up to date with registration, inspection, and enforcement.

A3. As a current student at Bowling Green State University, I believe that connecting the University with the city is crucial and a well-needed friendship. This includes partnerships that help foster a feeling and community, such as events that take place in our beautiful downtown like Rally BG, or working on initiatives that benefit both the University and the city which can be achieved through open communications or committees between the city and University.

A4. I would constantly be looking into pathways to continue to make our city a frontrunner for green energy. This includes creating pathways for homeowners to build solar panels on their roofs without penalty from the city, the transitions from fluorescent to LED lights in our public lights, expanding our solar farm, creating bike lanes, and looking at ways to create a community garden to make sure that all citizens in our city have

access to healthy and accessible foods.

Ward 2

(2-year term; Salary: \$5000)



Joel O'Doriso, Democrat
(Unopposed)

Education: BFA from The Ohio State University. MFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University

Occupation: Professor of Fine Art

Qualifications: Artist and Business owner since 1998, Teacher since 2006, and union leader since 2010

Email: Joelodo1@gmail.com

Website: Joelforohio.org

A1. - Increasing affordable housing in Bowling Green. We have a lack of quality affordable housing and we need to increase safe housing for both Students and families interested in moving to Bowling Green.

- Rental registrations and inspections. We have begun the work of registering rental housing in our community. we need regulations to address short term rentals, and insure that rentals in our community are safe and comply with safety regulations.

-Respond to Issues in our community as they arise. I am serving on council to be a voice for the community. I will bring forward issues that are important to my constituents, and I make a commitment to meet regularly with residents to stay informed.

A2. I believe that there has been lackluster registration by landlords in our community. I believe we should begin enforcing the registration requirement. I would like to see some stated and enforceable standards attached to the registrations. I would like to see some inspections of housing.

A3. I am a university professor myself. I believe that the city and university can cooperate well when there are shared interests, however when the interests do not align it is challenging.

A good example of shared interest is the gateway project. we have improved traffic patterns near the freeway ramps. Additionally along Wooster street from the start of campus to Meijer we have a safe bike lane on campus and across the bridge. This has taken one of the most dangerous pedestrian and bike paths and made it significantly safer for biking and crossing.

I would like to see an improvement in access to public transportation, and I believe a collaboration between the university and city could be beneficial to the community.

A4. We have a history of significant development of sustainable electricity, however our investment in a coal fired power plant has proven to be a mistake. I would like to see us divest ourselves of our stake in the coal plant and explore new ways to access less carbon intensive sources of power. I think examining the membership of our utilities committee would be a good place to start.

Ward 3

(2-year term; Salary: \$5000)



Rachel Phipps, Democrat
(Unopposed)

Email: rhs.phipps@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/
RachelPhippsBGThirdWard/

A1. 1) Pedestrian/Bicycle Infrastructure. We have a city-wide plan for bicycle infrastructure, let's pursue funding and grant money, set goals, and track our efforts. 2) Subdivision Regulations. We must modernize and streamline these regulations that provide critical guidance for development and touch on many city goals, including tree cover, stormwater management, pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure, and sustainability. 3) Neighborhood Revitalization. This is a complex issue; private-public partnerships and creative thinking are required. To start, let's increase proactive code enforcement and find partners to help create programs called for in our planning documents.

A2. The city passed a rental registration/self-inspection ordinance two years ago with several goals: to protect the health and safety of tenants; to identify deficient rentals; to encourage preventative maintenance; and to preserve property values and neighborhoods. Critical provisions concern tenant education and the ability to verify self-inspection

forms through city-conducted inspections. The city is rolling out this program right now-- rental registration is nearly complete, and the self-inspection program will be underway by the end of the year. I believe the success of the program will depend on the city inspecting a number of rentals each year to ensure compliance with the law and the requirements of the self-inspection program.

A3. We are lucky to have BGSU. Without a doubt, the University's opportunities and resources set us apart from other small cities of our size and improve the lives of our city's residents. The city and BGSU will be most successful when they work together. I believe the goal for our town/gown relations should be dialogue and more dialogue. And we should also celebrate the other's wins! There are many projects that BGSU and the City can and should tackle as a team, and there are many examples of the two working together – like Rally BG this past August. Long-term projects require that same cooperation. For example, our city's plan for redevelopment along East Wooster depends on the University's participation and help.

A4. I drafted the resolution calling for our city's first climate action plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions; that planning process is underway. Let's make sure our plan includes bold targets; helps residents increase energy efficiency and renewable energy generation; and appoints a Sustainability Commission of citizens. 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 residents and taxpayers to plan comprehensively now and move quickly toward our targets.

Ward 4

(2-year term; Salary: \$5000)



William J. Herald, Republican
(Unopposed)

Education: Ph.D.-Public Policy & Mgmt., Ohio State University; M.A.-Public Admin./Policy, BGSU; M.S.-Applied Statistics, BGSU; B.S.-Math & Computer Science, BGSU

Occupation: Currently Assistant Professor of Computer Science at University of Findlay; formerly Data Scientist

Qualifications: Currently in 14th year of representing residents as Fourth Ward Council Member. This experience has spanned portions of four decades.

Email: williamjherald@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/
williamjherald

A1. This can be treated as two questions. 1: "Should you be elected?" Well, yes-definitely. 2: "What are your top priorities for your next term?" My priorities include: (1) Responsiveness to citizens; (2) Citizen safety; (3) Fiscal responsibility (prudent spending and proper economic development); (4) Street and sidewalk repair; (5) Drainage issues; (6) Neighborhood revitalization; and (7) Sustainability. I am gratified that the past few years Council has

agreed with me to include “Increased emphasis on streets, sidewalks, and drainage” in our Council strategic priorities. I intend to “deep dive” into sidewalk improvements, drainage issues, and greater use of sustainable energy while continuing to listen to, respect, and respond to residents.

A2. Basically, my position is to first see if it works. Unfortunately, for various understandable reasons (e.g., time spent on new zoning code), the system has not yet been implemented. We are behind in the first component: rental registration. We have been very patient, but now need to reestablish a deadline for registration and start fining those who do not register. Then, we can see if the second component, self-inspection, works. If it does work, great. If it just needs to be modified, we’ll know after giving it time. If self-inspection turns out to not work, then we’ll be in a much better position to move to a different inspection process. So, let’s get past registration. Get an inspection track record. And then, reassess.

A3. Both informal and formal relationships are important and should be nurtured. A very important part of the interrelationship between the University and City involves the relationship between the University President and our City Mayor. Historically, recent President-Mayor relationships have been good. This should continue. Personally, I have found the President of BGSU quite willing to meet and discuss city-university matters. Shared interests can also be helpful (e.g., city-university mix of individuals within the Not In Our Town organization). Also, there is a formal City-University Relations Committee

that is currently dormant. Perhaps, a dialog should be started to modify and recommit to a revision of this Commission.

A4. We are very fortunate to have our own electric utilities. This control allows us to directly affect both policy and implementation. In working with the Board of Public Utilities, Council should help continue to improve our mix of energy sources (to have more affordable energy) and our infrastructure (thereby reducing outages) all while increasing our percentage of sustainable energy. With respect to sustainability, Council passed my legislation to create Council’s Sustainability Committee. This elevates attention to the area. I also wrote legislation to provide incentive for residential renewables (e.g., solar panels) to diversify our electric grid and assist citizens. Unfortunately, it did not pass. My efforts will continue.

At Large
(4-year term; Salary: \$5000)



Jeffery J. Dennis, Democrat

Education: Juris Doctor, University of Toledo College of Law (2021); B.A., Political Science, Bowling Green State University (2015)
Occupation: Attorney
Qualifications: BG City Council since 2021; Legal roles in multiple municipalities where I advise, draft legislation, and/or prosecute violations of local ordinances

Facebook: Facebook.com/votejeffdennis
Email: Votejeffdennis@gmail.com

A1. (1) Neighborhood revitalization. One of the biggest challenges we face is ensuring everyone has access to safe, affordable housing in a great neighborhood. I’m committed to improving access to housing for BG families, preserving historic properties, & revitalizing our neighborhoods. (2) Safer pedestrian & bike infrastructure. Everyone who lives or works in BG should be able to get around safely & efficiently regardless of how they choose to travel. (3) Continue to invest in community amenities that improve the lives of BG families while also helping to attract the new residents & businesses we need to grow our economy & strengthen our public school system. You can find a list of specific policies at www.votejeffdennis.com/issues.

A2. I said at the time that for tenants, neighbors, and landlords this system would provide all the burden of a more proactive approach with far fewer benefits. Implementation isn’t complete so whether reactive enforcement will be effective or the penalties enough of a deterrent remains to be seen. However, the process has proven cumbersome & it relies heavily on tenant complaints. I continue to believe a better alternative would be to charge a small fee, hire full-time city inspectors, certify the many properties that are probably safe, & focus enforcement on those that aren’t. \$25/year is a fraction of what nearby cities charge. With 7K rental units, this would generate \$175K annually to invest in code enforcement & neighborhood improvements.

A3. BGSU is one of our largest employers & relies on our ability to attract & retain young people. We can strengthen this relationship in several ways: 1) Invest in parks, public art, bike paths, on-street dining, dog parks, pickleball, & other amenities. This improves the lives of BG's longtime residents & helps market our community to students, families, & other employers that are seeking a well-educated workforce. 2) Opportunities for community engagement. Events like Rally BG help introduce students to our local businesses early & foster a stronger, longer-lasting relationship. 3) Transportation options to make it easier & safer for students and everyone else to travel to & from our downtown & experience everything our city has to offer.

A4. (1) Public transportation options and dedicated bike infrastructure make our streets safer for all users and improve energy independence. (2) Update public buildings to be more energy-efficient. Our new City Hall provides a great example. Another opportunity is the current bond issue to build a new high school. That project would include geothermal energy, paid for with federal funding, that would result in significant cost savings in operating both the high school and middle school. (3) Tax Incentives. I voted for & support the Residential Renewable Resources legislation drafted by Councilman Herald which would have given tax credits to homeowners who install renewable resource generation at their homes (for example, rooftop solar).



Eric J. Peck, Republican

Education: Eric currently holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Master of Business Administration from Bowling Green State University.

Occupation: Vice President of Business Intelligence & Analytics

Qualifications: 6+ years of corporate finance, 8+ years volunteer firefighter and medical first responder, 3+ years school board of directors

Email: voteericpeck@gmail.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/people/Eric-Peck-for-Bowling-Green-City-Council/100093406096115/?mibextid=L

A1. 1. Listening to Citizens: I believe in actively engaging with our community, listening to the concerns and ideas of residents, and working collaboratively to address safety issues. Given my experience as a volunteer firefighter, I feel I'm equipped to help with our citizens needs and concerns. 2. Infrastructure Improvements: We must address the pressing issue of our city's deteriorating streets, sidewalks, and drainage with a sense of urgency. Deteriorated roads impact the well-being of our citizens and must be addressed immediately. 3. Fiscal Responsibility: City spending

must be guided by fiscal responsibility. I will review budgets and expenditures rigorously to ensure taxpayer dollars are utilized efficiently and effectively.

A2. The current self-inspections program should be granted time to demonstrate its effectiveness. While mandates are necessary for accountability, they inevitably impose rising costs on citizens, leading to higher monthly rents. This is particularly concerning amid the current inflationary period we are in, as escalating rent prices can significantly burden residents and harm our community's well-being. It's unjust to penalize all renters for the actions of a few negligent landlords. Therefore, a balanced approach that ensures accountability without disproportionately impacting tenants by raising their rents with a fee-based inspection program is crucial to protecting the economic stability of our community.

A3. Building a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between Bowling Green City and BGSU is essential for the growth of our community. One key step is revamping our city-university committee to enhance collaboration, ensuring that the concerns and ideas of both sides are heard infrastructure planning is being done concurrently. Additionally, fostering healthy relationships with university and city leaders through regular dialogue and joint initiatives can lead to innovative solutions. Encouraging BGSU graduates to stay in our city by offering incentives and opportunities for their careers can bolster our community's economic stability. As a two-time BGSU graduate, I am

blessed to call this city my home after graduating.

A4. Bowling Green can enhance access to affordable and sustainable energy through a multifaceted approach. By expanding city-wide initiatives that promote energy efficiency and

renewable sources, we can reduce the overall energy demand and environmental impact. A more active and urgent sustainability committee can drive innovation and I pledge to be on this committee if elected. It's crucial to prioritize fiscal responsibility by diversifying our energy grid in ways

that generate savings for our citizens before benefiting the city financially. This ensures that the transition to sustainable energy sources won't burden residents financially. By continuously improving our approach and prioritizing smart financial strategies we can achieve more.

Questions for Bowling Green School Board

Q1. What are the two greatest concerns the school district will face over the next four years and how will you address them?

Q2. Private charter schools continue to multiply in Ohio. What do you believe the board can do to assure that Bowling Green City Schools are the schools of choice?

Q3. What role does the school library play in the education of students?

Q4. Many parents depend on busing to transport their children to school. What can the board do to ensure there are enough bus drivers in the district?

Candidates for Bowling Green City School District Board of Education

Voting for three (3) Candidates (Four-year term)



Stephen Bateson

Education: 1986 Graduate of BGHS
1991 Graduate of The Ohio State University with a BS In Agriculture Economics

Occupation: Strategic Account Sales Manager employed by Rosen's Inc.

Qualifications: 42 year resident of the district, have served and lead on various boards. Using a common sense approach for complex issues.

Email: BatesonForBGBoard@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/batesonforbgboard

A1. In order to help the public understand the cost of running a school we need to be transparent by sharing the complete finances.

This will gain trust and confidence with the taxpayers. We also need to examine spending to ensure that we are being a good fiduciary to the taxpayers of Bowling Green City School District. To improve the learning environment of our students and teachers, we need a plan to improve our facilities, regardless if the levy passes or not. We will need to prioritize the most pressing needs in each facility.

A2. Bowling Green City Schools excel by offering excellent teachers dedicated to their students success along with diverse programs that many charter schools are unable to offer. The board needs to highlight these advantages and ensure that they receive the recognition they deserve.

A3. The school library is integral to the school as a central hub for students and clubs to meet and converse. It can also serve as a resource for information or a safe place for reflection. It is ever evolving.

A4. Bus drivers are necessary to the school district. We must offer a competitive wage, flexibility and benefits. We should provide support to show them that they are valued staff.



Joseph M. Edens

Education: Bowling Green State University (BS), Virginia Tech (MS)

Occupation: Director of Advancement

Qualifications: Trained in Secondary Education (Social Studies) and an advanced degree in Higher Education

Email: edensforbgschools@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093158634903

Q1. In the next four years our district will need to develop viable plans to address our crumbling facilities that are incompatible with a 21st century education and to address obstacles to student success. I will address our facilities issue by working to broaden our public and private partnerships to not only raise the financial support needed, but to also develop innovative capabilities in new facilities that make BGCS a unique and state-of-the-art district. I will address obstacles to student success by advocating for the growth of our in-classroom support staff. These key staff are critical to providing services to students that have the most obstacles to learning. Recruiting and retaining these professionals long-term is essential.

A2. Lawmakers in Columbus have continued to prop up private charter schools despite Ohio public schools performing 68% stronger or the same as charter schools in reading and 69% stronger or the same in math (Stanford University). I believe our public schools are already the schools of choice; however, we must do better at understanding why families make other choices. Do we have gaps in our services that force families to look elsewhere? If we addressed those gaps, would they choose to remain in our schools? The state only provides \$3,572 for each student, but we will pay on average \$5,800 for each student to use a voucher. This serves to bleed our public schools and we must ask the hard questions to discover how we can better serve students.

A3. Highly effective school libraries are critical in the education of students because they help close gaps and impact reading achievement, cultivate critical thinking, and equip students with essential skills like informational and digital literacy. To have highly effective school libraries, we need to invest in them here in Bowling Green. A state-certified, full time, library media specialist should be deployed in each school building to anchor access to library services and enhance learning through engaging faculty in collaborative planning and instruction. If we are going to meet our obligation to promote literacy at all ages, school libraries must be weaved into the learning fabric of our schools in new and permanent ways.

A4. Growing up in rural community I would ride a bus over an hour each way to get to school. My parents didn't have the luxury of driving me to school, so if the bus didn't show up, I didn't show up. Most of my bus drivers were farmers in the community. Generally, they had the flexibility and felt a strong sense of duty to help us rural kids get an education. Simply put, they made it happen for us. I think our community can make it happen too. We need to offer competitive compensation (\$20/hr min) and explore how technology can help maximize our routes for efficiency. We should support drivers by ensuring our students are prepared to ride the bus and mitigate behavioral challenges and further streamline our hiring processes, where possible.



Howard A. Gonyer (Ardy)

Education: Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration (BGSU); M.Ed. in College Student Personnel (Ohio University); B.A. Psychology (BGSU)

Occupation: Restaurant Owner

Qualifications: Former educator; local business owner; extensive non-profit service; member of BG City Parks and Recreation Board and Parks and Recreation Foundation

Email: gonyerforschoolboard@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093443237698

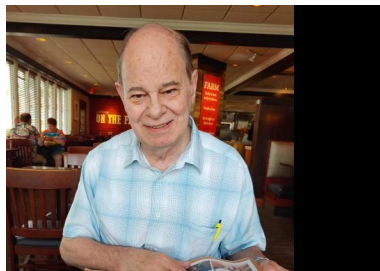
A1. The first concern is funding. The current forecast shows BGCS will run a deficit beginning in FY 2023, and by FY 2027, will have a negative cash balance. This will require the board to explore other funding options or budget cuts. I would explore ways to generate additional revenue (i.e. an additional operating levy, private donations) and responsible ways to reduce the overall budget. The second concern is aging and outdated facilities. It may have been wise in the past to invest in the maintenance of our buildings, but now the board needs to consider the cost to maintain vs. the cost to build new. Maintenance is a band-aid now, and in order to attract new families to Bowling Green, we must work to build new facilities for all grades.

A2. A 2023 study by Stanford University showed that public schools in Ohio perform better than or similar to charter schools in Ohio. We have known for a long time that our students and teachers are doing amazing things! The first step is publicizing all of the good that our students and teachers do on a regular basis. We need to consistently celebrate their accomplishments, and show the community how wonderful our schools are. We need to work harder at attracting and retaining quality educators. This involves ensuring that our pay is competitive, that our facilities can accommodate the latest teaching techniques, and that our students are prepared for the next step in life, whether that is college, the workforce, or trade school.

A3. School libraries play a central role in the education of our students. From teaching students to read at a young age, to increasing their knowledge of the world through literature, to helping older students learn how to conduct research, the library is of the utmost importance. Libraries provide the opportunity for students to have a wealth of information at their fingertips, and help prepare them for the world in which they are citizens. Librarians are the guide for our students in this process, helping them learn how to sift through information in an age where we are oversaturated with content, to determine what is credible and factual.

A4. Busing is not an issue that is unique to BGCS. A multitude of districts have had issues recruiting and retaining bus drivers. The first step is to ensure that bus driver pay is competitive with surrounding districts. The previous addition of a

sign-on bonus for new drivers helps, but has not solved the issue. Once the pay and benefits are competitive, the school can conduct targeted outreach via job search sites to individuals looking for work, and look for additional pools of people who may be interested in obtaining the necessary certifications. We should recognize long-time drivers for their commitment, and continue to build a culture where drivers feel valued so that new drivers will want to work for BGCS, and current drivers will stay.



Steven C. Goyer

Education: High School and Business Standards

Occupation: Retired

Qualifications: Business, Financial, and Human Relations partnerships.

Email: SteveGOYERforBGschools@gmail.com

A1. A story for the ages. Once upon a time the SKY and the GROUND both believed they were the most important. The SKY said "I am unlimited." The GROUND said "I am firm." The SKY said "I could go on and on." The GROUND said "I bet you could." The GROUND said "My foundation is deep." The SKY said "Keep digging." Finally, one day, they decided to play nice and work TOGETHER. 1) Our future (sky) is our children and our foundation (ground) is our infrastructure. It is apparent that our school facilities are in deep disrepair and need immediate attention. 2) In order to accomplish this we need

transparency in our deliberations. May we begin this journey TOGETHER.

A2. Private charter schools tend to flourish when public schools fall behind the basic needs of a learning environment. By updating our facilities while providing the best communication systems available our schools may compete more favorably. It is important that this is done in a proactive environment; inclusive of ideas which incorporate positive input from a wide segment of our community. It is greatly helpful that everyone feels that their concerns are being adequately heard. Our tax dollars remain within the BG school system when we are able to retain our student base. Bowling Green has earned an overall "B" rating for which we are so thankful. We should be the BEST there is. Does everyone agree we are headed upward? "A" and Amen.

A3. A library is an important resource for each of our students. Our school library is an oasis for information, study, and reflection by our pupils. Our teaching staff is available to answer any lingering questions. With all of the demands of successful teaching it is always such a blessing to have their support. I believe a periodic review of resources is important to ensure that our efforts are keeping pace with the everchanging demands of intellectual needs. Perhaps students could be encouraged to indicate any gained resources that could be noted at the end of their submissions to garner extra credit (10 points) in grade award.

A4. Certainly, our Bus Drivers are everyone's heroes. We trust the ongoing safety of our children to them. They are our first responders to our kids. As drivers bring their

concerns to our attention we should ALWAYS give a careful ear to them and give a thoughtful response to make their comments meaningful. Although this is probably already in the works, I would encourage a small pool of qualified drivers be kept in the background in case of a shortage. In an emergency, perhaps a working relationship might be arranged to borrow from each others' district if the situation presents with appropriate compensations. Simple enough, but a formal recognition dinner for all drivers for individual awards could be arranged once/twice a year.



Tracy Hovest

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education (grades 7-12 English, speech, and journalism) and Master of Education (Educational Technology)

Occupation: Teacher at Washington Local Schools Toledo, Ohio

Qualifications: Current BGCS school board member, parent of current BGCS student, and recipient of OSBA's STAR Award for Aptitude

Email: tracyhovest@yahoo.com

A1. The two greatest concerns facing the BG School District are upgrading facilities and the need for an operational levy in as early as 2024. As a school board, it is necessary that we communicate with the community and enable conversations that completely inform stakeholders about the master plan for our facilities and the need for new operational

funds. It is crucial that we have consistent communication, open discussions at board meetings, listen to stakeholders, and that we inform everyone with factual information about the state of our facilities, the financial impact, and the learning needs of our students. Upgraded facilities and stable operating funds will assist in overcoming future challenges that face the district.

A2. As a school board, we must allow our leadership to make BGCS the destination place. We can best do this by making decisions and creating policies that invite our families to be partners, help update our facilities to attract families, give our students opportunities to flourish in and out of the classroom, secure the tools and training to help our teachers succeed in their nurturing of students and instruction, afford our administrators the opportunity to lead successful buildings through the implementation of best practices, allow our directors to delegate their team and budgets to the needs of the district, and support the treasurer and superintendent to lead with fiscal responsibility, focus, and forward thinking.

A3. The school library can often act as a sanctuary of knowledge for many students and for some a refuge. As an English teacher, I have seen students flock to the fantasy worlds they can transport to in a good book. I've witnessed the compassion and empathy students gain by relating to a character. I've experienced the history students soak in by tapping into nonfiction. I have relished in the confidence students gain when reading about a character who is just like them. I've also seen how students can escape

sometimes harsh realities of everyday life in a good book. Libraries hold more than just books, they hold lessons about life and endless possibilities for students. Libraries are invaluable to the education of students.

A4. Bowling Green is feeling the hurt of the national bus driver shortage. Acquiring a CDL to drive a bus is no easy task, is quite an intensive process for trainees, and not as easy as some may think. However, as a member of the current board, we have been a part of working towards solutions trying to gain and retain enough bus drivers to resume the 1 mile busing routes for our BG families. We have acted on recommendations and suggestions to pay for training, increased pay, advertised on multiple media, and offered a hiring bonus to entice individuals to come aboard. We have also tried to be creative in how we bus students by using the 1 mile radius for preschool- 5th graders and 2 miles for 6th-12th graders.



Brian A. Paskvan

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Education, Doctor of Philosophy

Occupation: Retired College Administrator

Qualifications: Served over 30 years as a Higher Education Administrator.

Email: paskvanforbgschoolboard@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094931916486

A1. The two greatest challenges are continued student success and the condition of the school buildings. As a result of COVID, students have experienced learning loss. The district will need to continue to monitor the impact of COVID, especially in the areas of math and reading. If necessary, extra resources will need to be allocated to assist in any required remediation. Three of Bowling Green City School buildings are in need of significant remodeling or a complete rebuild. The district will need to make a substantial investment in creating learning environments that are conducive to today's learning methods. The Board of Education will play a key role in securing funding to bring the buildings up to today's standards.

A2. To be a school of choice, Bowling Green City Schools will need to increase its report card rankings along with its test scores. It will also need to provide safe and healthy buildings that are the pride of the community. In addition, the district will need to continue to provide challenging curriculum to those with advanced abilities, and extra resources to those who find school especially challenging. The school board plays a significant role in working with the teachers and administration to find the necessary resources whether they are financial, space, or human assets to achieve this goal.

A3. The school library/media center can play a vital role in enhancing the learning process. With the significant advances in technology, Librarians can assist teachers in introducing new and exciting ways to teach. Media centers can offer collaboration spaces and provide equipment to students such as 3-D printers and maker spaces. Librarians can develop strong partnerships with teachers to support what is being taught in the classroom. They can add additional resources needed to support a class project or provide necessary equipment to complete an assignment. With the introduction of the internet, the information highway has exploded. Librarians play a vital role in helping students distinguish what is valid research versus opinion.

A4. Busing is an important service to parents and students. Bowling Green City Schools offers a competitive starting wage for drivers and provides paid training at no cost to the employee. The following are potential ideas to attract and retain drivers. Some of these suggestions would fall upon the administration to implement. The School Board would play a supportive role in setting any needed policy additions or changes with regard to duties and pay. The district could increase pay above other local districts; offer sign-on bonuses; offer retention bonuses; increase hours (Drivers average 25 hours per week); work with other CDL training programs to recruit drivers; and create an awareness campaign on the benefits of being a bus driver.



Peggy A. Thompson

Education: BS and MBA from Heidelberg University

Occupation: self-employed, semi-retired, busy grandma

Qualifications: concerned citizen, BG City School accounts payable clerk for 32 years, local business owner and local apartment owner

Email: bgbobcatproud@gmail.com

A1. We will be facing the results of the school levy. Whether passing or failing, there will be a large number of upset voters. Our job as school board members will be to help both sides work toward unifying our efforts to provide the best education possible for our students. We need to put the emphasis back on student achievement and growth. We need to close the gap that many students are experiencing in their educational journey. Communication as a Board to our shareholders is vital. Fiscal information should be available monthly to reinforce our efforts of being good stewards of the funds available. We will need to engage with our shareholders on every level. As the Board, we need to be transparent in all aspects of our decisions.

A2. Public schools need to be the place where knowledge is gained and respected. When we deviate from the basics, we open up the opportunities for others to fill that gap. Our elementary schools need to produce strong readers, ones that comprehend the material they have read. We need to encourage strong critical thinking and study skills. As a board member, we need to be sure the curriculum being taught builds a good foundation for future growth. Strong basics give the educational foundation needed for every student. At the middle school and high school level, we need to be sure we have available classes that prepare our students for future success, in whatever field they choose to pursue.

A3. Library skills are vital for all students. If they are looking for a book to enjoy or working on a school project or report, the library is a great place to find information. Students can now ask Siri or Alexa for information and information spills out. But is that information accurate? Was it researched by others as factual? Who is supplying the information? Libraries are still needed for accurate and complete information. The library for young readers gives them a place to find a book, read it and enjoy it. It opens a world of possibilities. It encourages reading and learning. When the librarian reads to a group of young readers, they are drawn into the book. Love of reading is the goal.

A4. Driving a bus full of students is a very demanding job, one that many people are not willing to take. Growing up, my bus driver was also my custodian. He was willing to do both jobs. That may be an option within our district, too. We could encourage some of our current staff to add bus driver to their list of duties. We have had coaches in the past obtain their CDL's to help with after school athletic trips. Of course, that leaves work that still needs to be done in their current position. As you can see, this is not an easy fix. As with any business, there are more workers needed than there are qualified workers. We will continue working with the Director of Transportation to solve this issue.



The Issues

Local Issues

Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities Tax Levy (Renewal)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Ballot Language: A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Wood County for the purpose of providing funds for operational and capital needs for citizens with developmental disabilities that the county auditor estimates will collect \$8,443,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 2.45 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$69 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

League Explanation: Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities (WCBDD) provides services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities

throughout the entire lifespan. The renewal levy, set forth by Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities, will allow the organization to continue to support, empower, inspire, and coordinate current services. Focus areas for WCBDD will continue to be:

Implementation of strategic plan initiatives and service development such as Early Intervention, Multi-System Youth, Service Coordination, Adult Services, Technological Advancements, Special Olympics and Recreation, Advocacy Efforts, and Wood Lane School. Maintain organizational growth in enrollment.

Bowling Green City School District Bond Issue

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Ballot Language: Shall bonds be issued by the Bowling Green City School District for the purpose of constructing a high school and related facilities and renovating and improving existing facilities, including under a program of

the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission; furnishing and equipping the same; improving the sites thereof; and acquiring land and interests in land as necessary in connection therewith in the principal amount of

\$72,800,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 30 years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue 5.55 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$194 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

League Explanation: The majority of the funds will be used to build the new high school, a portion of the funds will be used to demolish the majority of the existing high school, and a small portion of the funds will be used to renovate an area of the old high school. The renovated area will be used as a BGCS Activity Center and will include the current cafeteria area, main gym, auxiliary gym, band room, choir room, music practice rooms, and the weight room area. Some of these areas will be repurposed and others will remain for the same purpose (gyms & music areas). The BGCS Activity Center will be available for district groups (afterschool) and community groups to use.

State Issues

Issue 1: The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Full Text of Proposed Amendment: Be it Resolved by the People of the State of Ohio that Article I of the Ohio Constitution is amended to add the following Section: Article I, Section 22. The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety

A. Every individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions, including but not limited to decisions on: contraception; fertility treatment; continuing one's own pregnancy; miscarriage care; and abortion

B. The State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either: An individual's voluntary exercise of this right or a person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual's health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care. However, abortion may be prohibited after fetal viability. But in no case may such an abortion be prohibited if in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician it is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health.

C. As used in this Section: "Fetal viability" means "the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures. This is determined on a case-by-

case basis." "State" includes any governmental entity and any political subdivision.

D. This Section is self-executing.

* Ballot Language was not ready at the time of printing.

League Explanation: A "yes" vote supports amending the Ohio Constitution to: establish a state constitutional right to "make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions," including decisions about abortion, contraception, fertility treatment, miscarriage care, and continuing pregnancy; prohibit the state of Ohio from interfering with this constitutional right, except when the state demonstrates "that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual's health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care;" allow the state to restrict abortion after fetal viability, defined as "the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient's treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures;" and prohibit the state of Ohio from banning abortion when, in the professional judgment of a physician, an abortion "is necessary to protect the pregnant patient's life or health."

A "no" vote opposes amending the Ohio Constitution to establish the constitutional right to "make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions." This, then, allows the General Assembly to pass legislation banning or restricting abortion and other reproductive decisions.

Issue 2: An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis

This is an Act (law) which could be amended or repealed by the General Assembly and is NOT an amendment to the Ohio Constitution.

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Ballot Language: To enact Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code, which would:

- Define adult use cannabis to mean marijuana as defined in Section 3719.01 of the Revised Code and establish the Division of Cannabis Control (the "Division") within the Department of Commerce;
- Authorize the Division to regulate, investigate, and penalize adult use cannabis operators, adult use testing laboratories, and individuals required to be licensed;
- Legalize and regulate the cultivation, processing, sale, purchase, possession, home grow, and use of cannabis by adults at least twenty-one years of age;
- Create additional protections for individuals who engage in permitted adult use cannabis conduct;
- Establish the cannabis social equity and jobs program and require the Department of Development to certify program applicants based on social and economic disadvantage;
- Define "social disadvantage" to include membership in a racial or ethnic minority group, disability status, gender, or long-term residence in an area of high unemployment;
- Shield certain confidential information from disclosure to the public, including but not limited to any information reported to or collected by the Division that identifies or would tend to identify any adult use cannabis consumer and prohibit the Department of Development from releasing certain application information as public records;
- Require the Division to provide preferential treatment to applicants who have qualified for the cannabis social equity and jobs program based on social disadvantage when issuing level III adult use cannabis cultivator licenses and dispensary licenses;
- Prohibit certain local government entities from limiting specific research, levying a tax, or charge on adult use operations, their owner, or their property not generally charged on other business, and prohibit certain local government entities from prohibiting or limiting adult use cannabis home grow or prohibiting or restricting an activity authorized by the proposed law;

- Authorize a landlord or an employer to prohibit the adult use of cannabis in certain circumstances, and prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle while using or under the influence of adult use cannabis and from using any other combustible adult use cannabis while a passenger in a motor vehicle;
- Limit criminal liability for certain financial institutions that provide financial services to any lawful adult use cannabis operator or testing laboratory licensed under the proposed law;
- Require the Division to enter into an agreement with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to create a program for cannabis addiction services;
- Provide for the creation of five funds in the state treasury: the adult use tax fund; the cannabis social equity and jobs fund; the host community cannabis fund; the substance abuse and addiction fund; and the division of cannabis control and tax commissioner fund; and
- Provide for taxation of 10 percent on the sale of adult use cannabis by dispensaries in addition to usual sales taxes and require that all monies collected from the 10 percent tax levied to be deposited into the adult use tax fund and quarterly distributed as follows: 36 percent to the cannabis social equity and jobs fund; 36 percent to the host community cannabis facilities fund; 25 percent to the substance abuse and addiction fund; and three percent to the division of cannabis control and tax commission fund.

If passed, the law will become effective 30 days after the election.

League Explanation: If approved by voters, the initiated statute, titled An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis (the "Act"), would legalize and regulate the cultivation, manufacturing, and sale of marijuana in Ohio for adults who are at least 21 years old. Pursuant to the Act, Ohio residents would be permitted to cultivate up to six marijuana plants at their primary residence, with a maximum of twelve plants per residence where two or more persons who are at least 21 reside, and marijuana sales would be subject to a 10% adult-use tax, in addition to the traditional sales tax.

The Act also establishes a Division of Cannabis Control ("DCC") within the Ohio Department of Commerce. The DCC would be responsible for overseeing the adult-use market with the authority to license, regulate, investigate, and penalize licensees and those required to be licensed

under the Act. This centralization is meaningful because currently, under Ohio’s Medical Marijuana Control Program, dispensaries are regulated by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy while cultivators, processors, and testing laboratories are regulated by the Ohio Department of Commerce. The establishment of the DCC is expected to alleviate certain headaches resulting from the inter-agency regulatory overlap.

Another important impact of the An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis, and a result of adult-use legalization generally, is that the medical program’s burdensome advertising restrictions are expected to be relieved significantly. As many Ohio licensees are aware, Ohio currently has very restrictive, burdensome, and, at times vague, advertising rules related to medical marijuana that significantly reduce the impact and effectiveness of marketing and advertising. With the

legalization of adult-use marijuana, Ohioans can expect to see more creative and targeted advertising through more traditional outlets.

The Act also provides a significant boost to existing industry participants. Licensees who have either a certificate of operation or provisional license as of the effective date of the Act will be grandfathered into the adult-use program to expand into the recreational use area.

Importantly, there will be an opportunity for new operators to enter the Ohio market through a cannabis social equity and jobs program. At the outset, the DCC is to issue 40 recreational cultivator licenses and 50 adult-use dispensary licenses “with a preference” to applicants who are participants under the cannabis social equity and jobs program.

