

2025

VOTERGUIDE

*Prepared by League of Women Voters of Bowling Green for Voters
in Bowling Green City and Bowling Green School District*

IMPORTANT DATES



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12:

Face2Face: Meet the Candidates

Veteran's Building, Bowling Green City Park
Doors open 1:30 p.m., program begins 2 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6:

Last day to register to vote for
November 4 election

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7:

Early In-Person & Absentee Voting Begins

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2:

Last Day for Early In-Person Voting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3:

Absentee Ballot Postmark Deadline

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4:

ELECTION DAY

Polls open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8:

Absentee Ballots Must be Received



CANDIDATES

- Bowling Green City Council
- Bowling Green Board of Education
- Bowling Green Municipal Court Judge

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BOWLING GREEN

www.lwvbg.org • info@lwvbg.org

Wood County Board of Elections

1 Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, OH 43402

www.co.wood.oh.us/BOE

419-354-9120

GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION

For over 70 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. This year that partnership is not possible so LWVBG is printing this Voter Guide. The League is grateful to the donors whose support makes this Voter Guide possible.

LWVBG is responsible for the format and questions for all candidates. Each candidate is requested to enter their answers to the questions directly into VOTE411.org and their responses are downloaded for printing here. Candidate responses are printed without editing by the League.

The League of Women Voters Bowling Green is a non-partisan organization dedicated to encouraging active and informed participation of citizens in government.

The League does not endorse candidates for office. The candidate information presented is for the sole purpose of informing the public and does not imply League endorsement of any candidate or party. League does take positions on issues after careful study.

More complete information on candidates is available on VOTE411.org, another source for information about candidates and issues and general voting information.

Information on early in-person voting and absentee voting and voter ID at the polls is available from

Wood County Board of Elections
419 354 9120

www.wood.co.oh.us/BOE

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL Ward Seats

Base Salary: \$5,000 Term: 2 yrs

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

Base Salary: \$5,000 Term: 4 yrs

2 to be elected

QUESTIONS FOR ALL COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Q1. What are your top three priorities for your first or next term?

Q2. With 2 new industries set to consume 2.5 million gallons per day and citizens using 5 million gallons per day, what would your plan be if our pumping station is unable to pump enough water to meet the demands such as when we experience a drought?

Q3. How will you address the need for more affordable housing in Bowling Green?

Q4. Which recommendations in the Citizen Action and Resiliency Implementation Plan would you prioritize?

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL Ward 1

Candidate: Jordan Musgrave, Democrat

Qualifications: President and Founder of BGOPride, lifelong Wood County resident

Education: Elmwood High School

Occupation: Grocery Lead, Meijer

Campaign Phone Number: 567-208-8933

Campaign Email: jorgrave91@gmail.com

A1: My top priorities as a city councilperson are keeping our community safe, vibrant, and inclusive. I will focus on improving traffic safety through better crosswalks, street lighting, and road improvements to protect pedestrians and drivers alike. I am committed to maintaining our parks, trails, and recreational facilities so residents of all ages have places to gather, play, and stay active. Finally, I will ensure diverse voices are represented in all city decisions, making Bowling Green a place where everyone feels valued.

A2: When it comes to water availability, my first priority will always be the health and safety of our citizens. Residents, families, and essential community services must come before industrial demands, especially during times of drought or limited supply.

Given the increasing demands on our water system and the risks posed by drought, I would consider drafting a Drought Contingency Ordinance to ensure that citizens' essential needs are always prioritized over industrial or non-essential uses. Such an ordinance would establish clear conservation stages, fair restrictions, and enforceable agreements with large water users so that our community is protected in times of shortage.

A3: Affordable housing is one of Bowling Green's most pressing challenges, and it directly impacts our workforce, students, families, and seniors. I would address this need by working to expand partnerships with developers who are committed to building mixed-income housing, while also advocating for state and federal resources that can support affordability here in our community.

A4: I would focus on storm water strategies. With heavier rainfall events becoming more frequent in our region, effective storm water management is essential to protecting homes, businesses, and public infrastructure from flooding and damage. By investing in green infrastructure, upgrading storm sewer systems, and preserving natural floodplains, the city can better prepare for climate impacts while also improving water quality and supporting healthy ecosystems.

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL Ward 2

Candidate: Joel O'Dorisio, Democrat

Qualifications: I have served two terms as the Councilmember for ward 2. I am an active member of our community, and a strong democratic voice on city council.

Education: BFA from Ohio State University, MFA from Alfred College of Ceramics SUNY

Campaign Email: Joelodo1@gmail.com

Occupation: Professor and artist

Campaign Phone Number: 607-426-8945

Campaign Phone Number: 607-426-8945
Campaign Website: Joelforohio.org

A1: 1) Safe streets and walk able sidewalks especially near our schools. 2) Continuing progress on our climate resiliency action plan. 3) Bike lanes and walking access in the second ward.

A2: We are working to address our water storage capacity. Additionally we are continuing our climate resiliency action plan to reduce the risk of water supply issues and other weather related risks. However we would explore water conservation measures if faced with drought on a scale that affects water availability within our city.

A3: We have done significant work on our zoning laws to make it easier to create new housing within the city. We currently have a number of housing developments actively building new construction as well as a new assisted living community and new apartment complex in the second ward specifically focused on affordability. I will continue to examine ways that we can encourage development that retains the comfortable and inclusive feel of our community.

A4: Areas of particular concern to me include water resource management including storage of water in case of drought, and increased storm runoff. I would also like to see emergency shelters in case of fire or flood. I am looking forward to discussions about the plan as we set priorities for the city.

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL Ward 3 **Candidate: Kathleen Dennis, Democrat**

Qualifications: 2015 to present community advocacy work- Ex. Director of a Nashville urban watershed association & founding member of BG SONG, BG's first CDC.

Education: Doctorate in Neuroscience

Occupation: Retired Biomedical Research Scientist

Campaign Email: kdennisbgcc25@gmail.com

Campaign Phone Number: 330-760-3981

A4: I will prioritize building community resilience, improve access to housing, particularly for middle- and lower-income levels. I also support the development of multmodal transportation options to reduce dependency on cars and promote physical & mental health through walking & biking. For the last six years, I have worked in both Nashville TN and Bowling Green Ohio to build resilient strong communities. My work is informed by neuroscientific studies that demonstrate the positive impact safe homes & neighborhoods connected to the natural environment have on lowering the risk of anxiety and depression for a community. Much of my work in BG has centered around my leadership roles as a founder of BG SONG. I spearheaded SONG's Call To Action Meeting which brought close to 70 community members together and resulted in the establishment of our four Call To

Action teams. These teams are engaged in advancing projects related to climate resilience, housing and transportation.

A2: This is one of the priorities we need to address identified in the CARIP. The two industries will on board in a few years and we need to have a solution that is in progress at the very least. The development of fresh water reserves could take up to a decade. This need is best addressed through partnership with the appropriate state and local officials to develop an alternative water reserve such as a reservoir or well field for use when drought conditions prevail. Another option is to develop a pipeline for water access directly from Lake Erie. We should also develop a partnership with these industries with the intention to conserve water. For example, the data center could recycle the water used for cooling the data center and the city could promote alternatives to traditional lawns to help reduce water usage across the city. Both industries could create campuses that utilize trees bio-swales and rain gardens to improve ground water return and support our pollinators.

A3: I have been working since helping to establish BG SONG on improving middle and lower income housing for BG. This includes volunteering for our first "Rock" project which provided lawn and home repair for homeowners who need financial or physical help to maintain their properties. As the team lead for BG SONG's New Housing Action Team, I helped develop a proposal for a "Housing and Neighborhood Commission" which will champion best practices for neighborhood and housing strategies. Our team also is working on a project that will "(Re) Imagine a BG neighborhood". This BGSU collaboration will help inform the community on innovative housing options & promote walking. I will also consider policy that supports mixed income level housing.

A4: Other than secure water reserves I would promote the following; the construction or retrofitting of public buildings as resiliency centers, a comprehensive program for using native plants and tree, increase our tree canopy & implement other green infrastructure elements to help with carbon offset and flooding. I would strongly advocate for increasing reliance on renewable energy sources, promote electric and hybrid vehicles, & improve public transportation to reduce reliance on cars and carbon emissions. Improving our tree canopy, adding green infrastructure and promoting walking and public transportation will promote the physical and mental health of our community members.

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL Ward 4 **Candidate: Audrey Baker, Democrat**

Candidate did not respond by publication time.

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL Ward 4

Candidate: William Herald, Republican

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

Occupation: Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Findlay

Qualifications: 16th year as Fourth Ward Council Member (1984-1991, 2018-present, parts of four decades), former Pres. Pro Tem, former Acting Mayor; 48 years in BG.

Campaign Phone Number: 419-352-6644

Campaign Email: williamjherald@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.williamjherald.org

A1 As elected representatives, the basic responsibilities are: responsiveness to BG residents, individual safety, and city fiscal responsibility (including prudent spending and proper economic development). These responsibilities must be met. With this in mind, my top three priorities are: (1) Street/sidewalk repair, (2) Sustainability, (3) Neighborhood revitalization (including zoning and housing needs). (1) Street/sidewalk repair-despite Council's rejection of my proposal for a significant shift in funds for street repair (my thorough argument to Council for the funding can be found at <http://www.williamjherald.org> in the LWV tab), I will continue working on innovative solutions. (2) Sustainability-as a Council Member who has devoted much work on this, I will continue my efforts. Regarding (3), Council needs to: close some zoning loopholes, revisit bed and breakfast regulations, and look into the city's role in achieving more housing options (including affordable housing).

A2: The total commitment for the two industries is approx. 1.25 million gallons a day (MGD) [0.600 MGD-Meta, 0.648 MGD-Abbott]. The city's current capacity can handle the increase. Historically, BG Utilities are constantly improving. The Meta facility will have a new 2 MG water tower that will benefit the city. The existing pumping station is being rebuilt/renovated to almost double its capacity to pump to the reservoir. We are also looking into expanding the reservoir. We are modifying the softening clarifiers so that we can request approval from Ohio EPA for an increased plant capacity rating (additional 1-2 MGD). The Maumee River, pumping capability, reservoir volume, treatment ability, and water tower capacity go a long way in handling all but the most extreme situations. To go even further, we should continue discussion with the Northwest Water & Sewer District and Perrysburg to establish an emergency interconnection that would provide Toledo water as some relief in an emergency.

A3: I have been working with members of BG SONG's Housing Action Team-including Kathleen Dennis-to fashion our proposal for creating a Housing & Neighborhood Commission. The Commission would have helped address housing needs (in part by increasing the options

for dwelling ownership) AND it would have had a needed diverse membership to facilitate dialog and cooperation. Although I am ready to introduce the legislation; if it were to pass Council, it would probably be vetoed. (The current draft can be found at <http://www.williamjherald.org> in the LWV tab.) Regardless, we need to work with different stakeholders (including developers) to fashion innovative, multi-pronged solutions for expanding ownership options. It remains a priority for me.

A4: I have been working on initiatives for years. I'll list two examples of work I've done. First, we needed a mechanism to keep focus on these issues. I wrote-and Council passed-legislation to make a rare change to Council Committees to create the Council Sustainability Committee. Also, I extensively researched and wrote an ordinance to provide incentives for residential renewable resources (e.g., solar panels) for a more diverse and greener electric grid which would decrease purchasing expensive peak energy (see my Web site in LWV tab). It did not pass by a 3-4 vote (Jeff Dennis and Rachel Phipps joined me in voting for it). I may reintroduce it now that we have the CARIP. I will continue being proactive in advancing sustainability issues.

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

Candidate: Katelyn Elliott, Democrat

Qualifications: Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Board member, Bowling Green Tree Commission member, member and former secretary of the LWVBG

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University

Occupation: Full time caregiver

Campaign Website: www.KEforBG.com

Campaign Email: kelliottbg@gmail.com

Campaign Phone Number: 330-461-2603

A1: If the voters entrust me with representing them on City Council, my top three priorities will be creating safer streets, improving playgrounds, and incorporating green infrastructure for stormwater management.

My main goal is to improve the lives of the people of Bowling Green and make a positive difference for them. Safe Routes to School Funding projects will have a big impact, but we also need more painted crosswalks at busy intersections, especially around our schools. The Parks and Recreation Department will soon be updating its 5 year plan. We have a fantastic, inclusive playground at Carter Park, but equipment at Ridge and City Parks has begun to wear out. Our kids deserve to have great places to play.

As the City considers new safety facilities and changes to Downtown, I will promote the use of green infrastructure to collect and filter rain water. These features don't only help with stormwater management, they also provide beautification and ecosystem services.

A2: Currently, Bowling Green has a reservoir that can

hold 170 million gallons of water and has purchased land to build a second reservoir capable of storing 100-150 million gallons. That is enough water for approximately two months of use. In 2002, Bowling Green put water restrictions in place. Residents were told to limit non-essential water usage and were not permitted to water lawns three days a week. I would support those restrictions. An extended drought could threaten Bowling Green's water supply. I would like to see the City plan for this possibility by looking into the feasibility of alternative or back-up water sources as mentioned in the Climate Action and Resiliency Improvement Plan.

A3: I would like to see the City evaluate its efforts up to this point, and consider what other communities have done, then make changes accordingly. I support extending the building fee moratorium previously passed by the City Council. The City should continue to fund the Community Development Block Grant home repair and rental rehabilitation programs for low- and moderate-income residents. One goal of the zoning code update was to increase housing affordability. At the five year mark, the City should evaluate what impact the changes have had on affordability. The City should do what it can to facilitate the production of smaller, more affordable homes.

A4: Many of the items I have previously mentioned, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, green stormwater management, and considering a back-up water source, are recommendations in the Climate Action and Resiliency Improvement Plan. I have asked the City to consider designing the new/renovated safety facilities to have areas that could be used by residents as heating or cooling centers during extreme weather events. Another recommendation I would prioritize is embedding funding into the annual budget to be better prepared for issues when they arise. Should grants requiring matching funds become available, we would be positioned to apply quickly.

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

Candidate: Mark Hollenbaugh, Democrat

Qualifications: I am a qualified elector and reside in the city of Bowling Green.

Education: 1983 graduate of BGHS, and both a bachelors and masters degrees from BGSU.

Occupation: History/Government Teacher

Campaign Phone Number: (419)575-3823

Campaign Email: markforcouncil@yahoo.com

A1: First among my priorities is maintaining the high-quality infrastructure and essential public services the city consistently provides, while thoughtfully adapting to ever evolving technologies, and embracing new opportunities for enhanced connectivity throughout the city. Secondly, I will continue to actively work to address critical housing issues within the city, placing a strong emphasis on factors such as overall quality and availabil-

ity of homes, and the variety of housing options available to meet the diverse needs of all residents. Although housing is a national issue, there are things we can do at the local level to encourage development and seek solutions. Finally, we need to continue to explore a variety of economic growth opportunities within the city to assure the financial security of the city and its citizens moving into the future. If a community is to going to thrive it's residents need to have employment opportunities that allow them to build the future they envision.

A2: The health and safety of residents is the priority. The City of Bowling Green has invested, and continues to invest, in the city's infrastructure, including the water treatment plant and its facilities. This includes the acquisition of an additional 39 acres of land for the purpose of expanding the city's reservoir. In the event a prolonged drought led to a shortage of water, I would defer to the mission statement for the City of Bowling Green's Water Treatment Plant, which defines its mission as the following: "To provide the highest quality drinking water to the citizens of Bowling Green and surrounding communities. The City is committed to improving and expanding water treatment systems to assure this vital resource is available for future generations to come." The key phrase being "quality drinking water." In the event of a prolonged drought which results in a water shortage, the priorities would be given to citizens' drinking water and safety services over the needs of industry.

A3: Though the lack of housing in the United States this is primarily a national problem, there are some actions that can be taken related to housing at the local level. The city's updated zoning code was a first step in addressing the issue by allowing more flexibility in density and options such as ADUs. In recent years, the city has also taken steps to streamline permitting, waive fees, and reduce barriers for development. The use of Community Reinvestment Areas when tied with tax abatements can be a tool to allow the reinvestment of future gains in taxes to subsidize current improvements and attract development. Working to fully understand our specific local demand across income levels, housing types, and neighborhoods is essential.

A4: The Climate Action and Resiliency Implementation Plan is a roadmap moving the city into the future, and, as a result, all the findings and recommendations are important. There are areas the city can address first to create momentum and reaffirm the city's commitment to sustainability. Upgrading municipal facilities to reduce emissions while saving energy can serve as a model for private-sector homes and businesses, while also offering immediate benefits. Diversification and transitioning to renewable energy sources will improve the city's energy resiliency while reducing its overall carbon footprint. Through this plan, Bowling Green has adopted a comprehensive and forward-thinking plan which is bold in scope, community-focused, and useful.

BOWLING GREEN CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

Candidate: Greg Robinette, Republican

Qualifications: I am a 32 yr Army veteran, have worked as an engineer and an attorney, served 3 terms on council, and served on the ZBA and the Planning Commission

Education: BS from Purdue University, a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a law degree from the UT College of Law.

Occupation: Patent Attorney

Campaign Email: greg.robinette@gmail.com

Campaign Phone Number: 419-308-4493

A1: Broadly, my top three priorities are: (1) Safety Services Facilities Upgrades. Specifically moving forward with the new fire stations and the police station renovation. (2) A budget that adequately funds critical city services. As chair of the finance committee, I am committed to working with the city administration to ensure that the 2026 and future budgets adequately fund safety services, street maintenance and repair, and our public utilities. (3) Reviewing the zoning code at least annually to ensure that the recently enacted changes create enough opportunity for new housing development in all residential housing categories.

A2: BG is fortunate to have a public utilities department established in §30.45 of our code, which states that the Board of Public Utilities shall be responsible for the management and operation thereof. Meta will be a customer of the District and use BG City water. The District requested 600,000 GPD for the Meta project. Meta is building a 2 MG elevated water storage tower, which will increase BG's 4.5 MG of tower storage to 6.5 MG. Abbott's water usage is estimated at 648,000 GPD. When the Meta and Abbott estimates are added, the total is 1,248,000 GPD, which is within BG's capacity rating. BG is studying options to expand the raw water reservoir from the current 170 MG, preparing to add 3.0 MGD of membrane treatment, and is working to add 7 MGD to pump station capacity. I will encourage the city to re-start discussions with The District and Perrysburg about an Emergency Interconnection that would be on SR25 just south of Five Point Road where the District has adjacent waterlines.

A3: The most effective tool that Council has to positively affect housing is the zoning code. The revised 2023 code creates opportunity for development in R1, R2, R3, and mixed use zones, and the P-R, University, and Gateway districts, and we are seeing positive results. Council also waived fees for new residential construction, but these fee waivers expire in December. I will support legislation to extend the waivers for another two years. The positive impact of these measures is clear - 40 new housing starts this year and 48 in 2024. This compares to 24, 22, and 29 housing starts respectively, in '21, '22, and '23. We are making progress on the housing front,

and I will endorse a review of the zoning code at least annually to ensure progress.

A4: I would prioritize the completion of work that is on-going at the water treatment plant, including following through with improvements to the treatment plant and increasing raw water storage capacity. BG is studying options to expand the raw water reservoir from the current 170 MG. We should ensure that the study is timely completed and, upon completion, that steps are taken to appropriately move forward with the expansion of the raw water reservoir. Simultaneously, we need to move forward with an emergency water interconnection with adjacent water sources. We can begin by re-starting discussions with The District and Perrysburg about an Emergency Interconnection on SR25 near Five Point Road where the District has adjacent waterlines.

BOARD OF EDUCATION, BOWLING GREEN CITY SCHOOLS--2 to be elected

Base Salary: \$125/meeting Term: 4 yrs

QUESTIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS CANDIDATES

Q1: What are the two greatest concerns the school district will face over the next 4 years and how will you address them?

Q2: All special needs elementary students who use the community learning center are being moved to Crim Elementary. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this plan?

Q3: Public funds continue to be funneled to private schools by the state legislature. What can the board do to assure that the Bowling Green City Schools are the schools of choice?

Q4: What are your plans for addressing the need for new or renovated elementary school buildings?

CANDIDATE: Stephen C. Bateson

Qualifications: 1986 BGHS graduate. I've lived in other communities and return to this district in 2003. I believe my background provides an unique Perspective.

Education: Bachelor of science in agricultural economics at the Ohio State University

Occupation: Strategic Account Sales Manager

Campaign Phone Number: 419-575-0696

Campaign Email: Batesonforbgboard@gmail.com

A1: My greatest concern is the declining enrollment at BGCS and the loss of financing from that. BGCS has seen a decrease in enrollment over that last five years by over 350 students. This decrease has cost the district millions of dollars. This has put a strain on the district's operating budget. Funding per pupil was roughly \$5,400 combined from the state and federal per student in 2023/24. BGCS loses more students to neighboring districts than it gains from neighboring districts. We

need to do all we can to keep district students in the district. We need showcase many of our excellent educators by highlighting their abilities. I believe many parents are choosing different schools for early education.

A2: I've not been given the details on this decision. I don't believe in isolating any students from their peers. This can lead to students being picked on. I believe early literacy is the key to success. "Learn to read, then read to learn". I think an all hands on deck approach would improve early literacy. I would support having one building hosting all k-2 students. I see value in teachers collaborating and combining different approaches for success. Prioritize whatever solutions give student's the best early literacy.

A3: Parents have every right to choose what's best for their child. We need to do all we can to showcase the experience and expertise BGCS has on staff to meet all students needs. A big part of education is the social experience schools can bring students. The wide array of extracurricular activities give students the opportunity to find that experience they enjoy most.

A4: I will support any and all improvements that enhance and improve the learning and teaching environment. I won't support a new long term bond until one of our existing bonds is paid off. I believe the district is on track to pay off one of our bonds in 2032. I believe neighborhood schools still have a place in our community and enhance the educationally experience.

CANDIDATE: Norman Geer

Qualifications: Elected to the Board of Education for two consecutive 4-year terms. Currently serving as President.

Education: BGCS - K-12; Miami University - Bachelors degree; Cornell University - Doctor of Law degree

Occupation: Lawyer in general practice serving the greater Bowling Green community for over 50 years
Campaign Email: geerlaw@amplex.net

Campaign Phone Number: 419-352-5164

A1: Both concerns deal with funding. First, the Ohio legislature does not adequately fund public education. Less than 30% of our operating budget comes from state funds. Fortunately, we have a supportive community that values education and supports the schools. However, expenses increase and state funding decreases. We are forced to pay more. Second, the Ohio legislature directs money toward vouchers. Vouchers were first designed to help students in failing schools. Then, vouchers were expanded to low-income families. Now, almost anyone can receive a voucher payment of approximately \$6000 for elementary students and

\$8000 for high school students. This is money that constitutionally should be used for public education only.

A2: The CLC at Crim has been established for the benefit of 22 special needs elementary students with the most significant cognitive disabilities from Conneaut, Kenwood and Crim. The CLC is not for the hundreds of other students with IEPs who receive special attention in their neighborhood schools. State law requires that there be no more eight students in any one classroom. Crim has three classrooms with three teachers and a number of aides and paraprofessionals to serve the needs of these children. Having all of the students and teachers in the same building allows for teacher collaboration and more resources, such as specialists, therapists, and a "reset" room. In short, it is the best model for providing for the needs of these children.

A3: The Board can urge our legislators to get off the "voucher bandwagon" and support the public schools which take every student and provide a quality education. BGCS can continue the progress we have achieved in the last several years with regard to programs, student services, curriculum choices, and, in general, all of the positive accomplishments outlined in our online Quality Profile. The Board is committed to build upon our successes and continue our upward trajectory. For the first time in a number of years, our enrollment is showing a significant positive trend. The new high school will make a huge difference in the quality of our educational instruction and will be a giant step in making BGCS a destination location.

A4: The community is split 50-50 between a consolidated elementary and the neighborhood schools. We need to find a solution which is supported by at least 60% of the community, like the high school. In order to do this, we should take the same approach to evaluate our options and determine the feasibility of each along with the costs and expenses. Once we have the facts and figures with regard to these options, we will involve the community for discussion, input, evaluation and action. In the meantime, we should continue to make the existing elementaries safe and comfortable for the students, such as the addition of the mini splits to provide air-conditioning for Kenwood and Conneaut.

CANDIDATE: Ryan Myers

Qualifications: Current School Board Member of BGCS. I have spent 25 years in education- 20 of those years in education administration

Education: Bachelors Degree in Teaching of Special Education; Masters Degree in Education Administration; Hold a Superintendent License

Occupation: Supervisor of Marketing & Satellite Programs at Penta Career Center
Campaign Phone Number: 419-619-0207
Campaign Email: ryanmyers2424@yahoo.com

A1: The two greatest concerns for Bowling Green City Schools are state funding and aging facilities. Ohio's school funding system remains unstable, with legislators shifting more of the burden onto local taxpayers. We must continue to advocate strongly for fair, reliable state funding while maintaining transparency with our community about financial challenges and responsible use of resources. Our second major concern is the condition of our elementary schools, especially Conneaut and Kenwood. Just as we did with the high school bond issue, we need to evaluate options—consolidation, replacement, or repurposing—while seeking creative funding sources to reduce taxpayer impact and provide safe, modern spaces for students.

A2: This decision is about the responsible allocation of resources. At Crim, we have a larger group of students requiring a higher level of support, while the number of students with the same intensive needs at other schools is very small. Rather than placing a special needs teacher in each building—sometimes serving only one student—we can provide the same high-quality services at Crim, where teacher-to-student ratios remain within best practices and resources are used more effectively. It's important to note this move only applies to students with the highest levels of need, not all students with disabilities. The main drawback is that some students who would normally attend Kenwood or Conneaut will now have their services delivered at Crim.

A3: The expansion of vouchers and the diversion of public funds to private schools is concerning, as it reduces resources for the majority of students served by public education. I believe taxpayer dollars are best used to strengthen schools that welcome and support all children. As a board member, I will support efforts at the state level, including the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of this legislation, while also working collaboratively with fellow board members and our superintendent to ensure Bowling Green City Schools remain the top choice for families. By providing rigorous academics, safe facilities, excellent teachers, and a supportive environment, we can give every student the opportunity to thrive.

A4: Addressing the need for new or renovated elementary schools requires a transparent, community-driven process similar to what we used for the high school project. Opinions differ—some support one consolidated school, others prefer replacing two and renovating the third, while others want all new facilities. I plan to work with architects to present detailed

options showing upfront and long-term costs, including relocating the central office. Just as important, we will aggressively pursue every available state funding program to maximize outside support, reduce reliance on local tax dollars, and provide safe, modern learning spaces that meet the long-term needs of Bowling Green students.

BG MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

CANDIDATE: Alyssa Blackburn, Republican

Qualifications: Wood County Assistant Prosecutor 2014 - 2022, Bowling Green Municipal Prosecutor 2022 - 2025

Education: Juris Doctorate

Occupation: Bowling Green Municipal Judge

Campaign Email: Citizensforblackburn@gmail.com

Q: List your judicial experience (courts and years).

A: Bowling Green Municipal Court January 2025 - Present

Q: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

A: Wood County Assistant Prosecutor 2014 - 2022
Bowling Green Municipal Court Prosecutor 2022 - 2025

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

A: I have had the pleasure of working for the Bowling Green Municipal Court jurisdiction since 2022. During this time, I have had the opportunity to meet and help so many wonderful people and would like to continue that work for many years to come.

PROPOSED MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

Ballot Language: Shall the ordinance providing for a 0.15 percent levy increase on income for the purpose of providing funds to pay certain costs of the city's department of safety and the payment of securities issued therefore be passed?

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Briefly, this income tax increase is to fund the construction of 2 new fire stations, an aerial ladder truck, and fire equipment. The new stations would be on Newton Road and on Campbell Hill Road.

For information contact the Mayor's office at 419-354-6204 or go to the LWVBG web site at www.lwvbg.org.