

Candidates and Issues Background Information

Some of you asked about the issues and candidates. I have attached the 12 questions that our students will be asked. I have also outlined the issues and candidates. Believe it or not, I condensed it a lot.

Let me know what else I can do to help you with this. I can set the ballots up on your classroom computers or you can bring your classes to the library to have them vote. If you want a particular day, please let me know, so that I can work out a schedule.

All info taken from the Voter Information Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus. More information is on their website:

<http://www.lwvcols.org/> The information was condensed with the wonderful assistance of one of CCS's diligent Library-Media Staff.

Kids can vote from October 19 through November 3.

The Issues:

Issue 1: To amend the Ohio constitution to allow bonds to provide compensation to veterans of the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts

- They have this for the veterans World War I and II, Korean War, and Vietnam War
- \$200 million allowed, but estimated to only need \$106 million
- From tax dollars
- Increase the state's annual debt by up to \$18 million

Who would get this?

- Ohioans who served during the 1st Persian Gulf War and those who have served during Afghanistan and the current Iraq War
- If the veteran did not serve in the war, but elsewhere or at home they would receive \$50/month up to \$500 for each month they served
- If the veteran served directly in the war, they would receive \$100/month up to \$1000 for each month they served
- If the veteran has died as a result of war, is missing in action, or held captive, the family will receive \$5000

Arguments For Issue 1:

- Ohioans need to show support to Ohio veterans
- Payments will make it easier to transition back to civilian life

Arguments Against Issue 1:

- Tax money will be diverted and limit other state programs in a time of financial crisis
- Future tax payers will be responsible for the debt incurred by these payments

Issue 2:

To amend the Ohio constitution to create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board for the purpose of establishing standards for the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio

- Board would consist of 13 members- the director of the state department that regulates agriculture with the rest being appointed
- The board would have authority to create standards for the care of livestock and poultry

Arguments For Issue 2:

- The board will represent a balance of interests
- Standards will be established for the well-being of animals
- Ohioans can have more confidence in the safety of locally produced food

Arguments Against Issue 2:

- Board will be appointed not elected
- Creating another board uses tax money that could be used on basic services
- This could prevent certain animal care reform proposed by national animal rights organizations

Issue 3:

To amend the Ohio constitution to allow a casino in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo

- 4 casinos, 1 in each city
- built on land owned by private individuals
- operator will be required to pay tax of 33% on annual income excluding payments to winners
- each casino must make an initial investment of \$250 million
- the initial license fee of \$50 million from each casino will fund state economic development programs
- each casino will operate 24 hours/day
- a maximum of 5000 slot machines
- may conduct any type of card or table games
- no bingo or horse racing

Where will this new tax money go?

- 51% going to the 88 counties of Ohio
- 34% going to public school districts
- 5% to the host city
- 3% to Ohio Casino Control Commission
- 3% to fund existing race tracks
- 2% to state law enforcement training
- 2% to fund the treatment of gambling and substance abuse

Arguments For Issue 3:

- 38 states have casinos including Ohio's borders
- profits could benefit our state rather than other states
- counties, public schools, and cities will receive extra money
- create 34,000 new jobs
- stimulate the economy by adding restaurants, hotels, etc

Arguments Against Issue 3:

- Ohio fund that supports basic services will get \$0 from casino profits
- Ohio lottery profits, which support public schools, will decrease
- Ohioans will spend money at the casinos that they would have spent at other existing businesses
- The number of gambling addicts in Ohio would increase
- The law could be used to eliminate church poker games and casino nights by stating these games are only allowed at casinos

Issue 4: Franklin County Children Services Levy

Replacing a tax levy that has been in place for 10 years and is set to expire in 2009.

- FCCS is the agency mandated by law to protect and care for the county's abused, neglected, and dependent children. The agency also serves troubled teens.
- Property tax will increase \$28.48/year on a house valued at \$100,000.

Arguments For Issue 4:

- If not passed, FCCS will lose \$69 million in revenue-almost half its budget
- FCCS has lost money due to state cuts caused by the economic downturn
- The agency is one of few to be accredited and meets rigorous standards

Arguments Against Issue 4:

- Money will jump from \$70 million to \$93 million, even though the agency predicts a decline in service demand
- The agency took 10 years to respond to hold service providers more accountable for work and funds they spend.
- They call it a “replacement with reduction”, which seems like a decrease. Taxpayers will actually have to pay more.
- The FCCS is asking for another levy increase in 2014.

The Candidates:

City Council

What does the city council do?

- proposes, debates, and votes on legislation governing and/or affecting the city
- regulates revenues and expenditures, incurs debt, and approves the final operating and capital budgets for the city
- responsible for the introduction of legislation generated by the administrative branch of city government
- may also introduce legislation generated by individual council members or council as a body

Select THREE (3) candidates for Columbus City Council:

Matt Ferris	Website: www.mattferris.org
Alicia Healey	Website: www.votealiciahealy.com
Roseann Hicks	Website: www.roseannhicks.com
A. Troy Miller	Website: AStrongerColumbus.com
Joseph A. Motil (write in)	No website found
Eileen Paley	No website found
Priscilla Tyson	Website: www.tysonforcouncil.com

Candidate responses to the League of Women Voters Questionnaire:

Question 1: What will be your top priority if elected?

Question 2: Should more be done to improve the city's financial stability given the recent passage of the income tax increase? If so, what?

Matt Ferris

Q1 cut wasteful spending and make Columbus more attractive to business

Q2 Yes, the city needs to stop spending money

Alicia Healey

Q1 low taxes for businesses to keep them and attract more - this will increase jobs

Q2 cuts must be made- financial stability should not be achieved through income tax increases

Roseann Hicks

Q1 restore the neighborhood Voice- give community leaders more decision making

Q2 engage residents and community leaders in the budgeting of their own tax dollars

A. Troy Miller

Q1 expand our job base and maintain quality city services

Joseph A. Motil

Q1 eliminate wasteful spending of city tax dollars and restore vital services

Q2 cuts should be made to administrative positions, decrease police helicopters, decrease health and pension benefits to city employees while being fair

Eileen Paley

Q1 innovative ways to improve city services while reducing costs and work with private enterprise to create more jobs

Priscilla Tyson

Q1 value neighborhoods, improve city infrastructure, keep our city safe, and increase efficiency

Q2 provide incentives for economic development, reform city gov't by reducing costs

Columbus City School Board What does the school board do?

- makes the policies for the local school district.
- sets educational goals and establishes policy for the school system based on state laws and community values
- hires a superintendent and makes him or her responsible for managing the schools in accordance with the school board's policies
- plans student services, sets goals and develops long-range plans
- develops or approves curriculum and establishes budgets
- helps build public support and understanding of public education
- serves as a link between schools and the public

Select THREE (3) candidates for Columbus City School Board (Full term):

Tracy Broaddus (write-in)

Website: Broaddus4Us -Facebook

William L. Buckel (write-in)

Website: www.billbuckel.com

Hanifah Kambon

Website: www.hanifahkambon.com

Ramona Reyes

Website: www.electramonareyes.com

Mike Wiles

Website: votewiles.com

Select ONE (1) candidate for Columbus City School Board (unexpired term):

Paul Timothy Carringer (write-in) Website: www.writeincarringer.blogspot.com

Lemuel E. Harrison, Jr. (write-in) No website found

Carol Perkins (write-in) Website: www.whycarolcares.com

Candidate responses to the League of Women Voters Questionnaire:

Candidates for a full term:

Tracy Broaddus

- Raise the OGT scores
- Low scores are due to lack of parental involvement, overcrowded classrooms, and test anxiety
- Rehab houses and provide teachers with low interest loans to bring them into the communities where they teach

William L. Buckel

- School system more user friendly
- Place public comments at the beginning of school board meetings and have dialogue with speakers
- Invite parents to improve their own schools
- Maintain a rainy day fund half of the annual budget

Hanifah Kambon

- Collaboration with parents, teachers, industry, administration, and clergy

Ramona Reyes

- Increase parent involvement
- Work with teachers to fully engage students
- Fiscally conservative

Mike Wiles

- Focus on discipline
- Stop paying consultants and the administrator that hires them
- Stop paying for lobbyist, dues, retreats, and conventions
- Merit based pay

Candidates for the remainder of the unexpired term:

Paul Carringer

- Change the perception of the district by sharing the good news
- Cautious financial management

Lemuel E. Harrison

- Engage stakeholders, enforce accountability, hire master staff, and let data drive decisions
- Look at successful districts as a model
- Audits to identify problem areas

Carol Perkins

- Change perception of the urban school system
- Innovative technology and qualified educators
- Continue financial accountability

Municipal Court Judge What does a municipal court judge do?

- criminal misdemeanors
- traffic citations
- city code violations
- orders of protection and injunctions prohibiting harassment

Rick Brown

did not respond to the League of Women Voters survey as of our printing

Mark A. Hummer

- deal with each case efficiently and set priorities
- lots of people do not get adequate legal representation, we need help to combat these problems