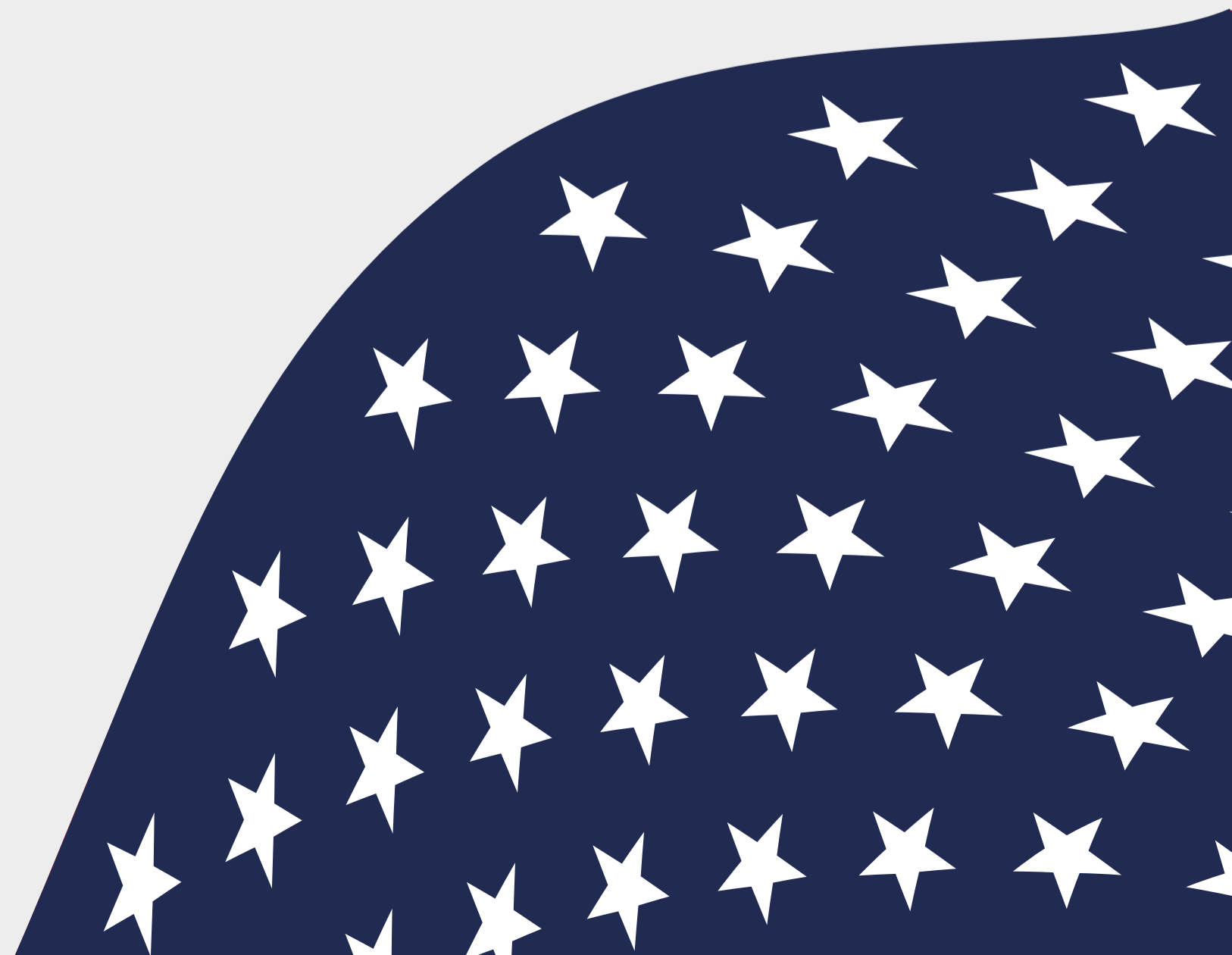


# KNOX COUNTY ELECTION GUIDE



NOVEMBER 2023





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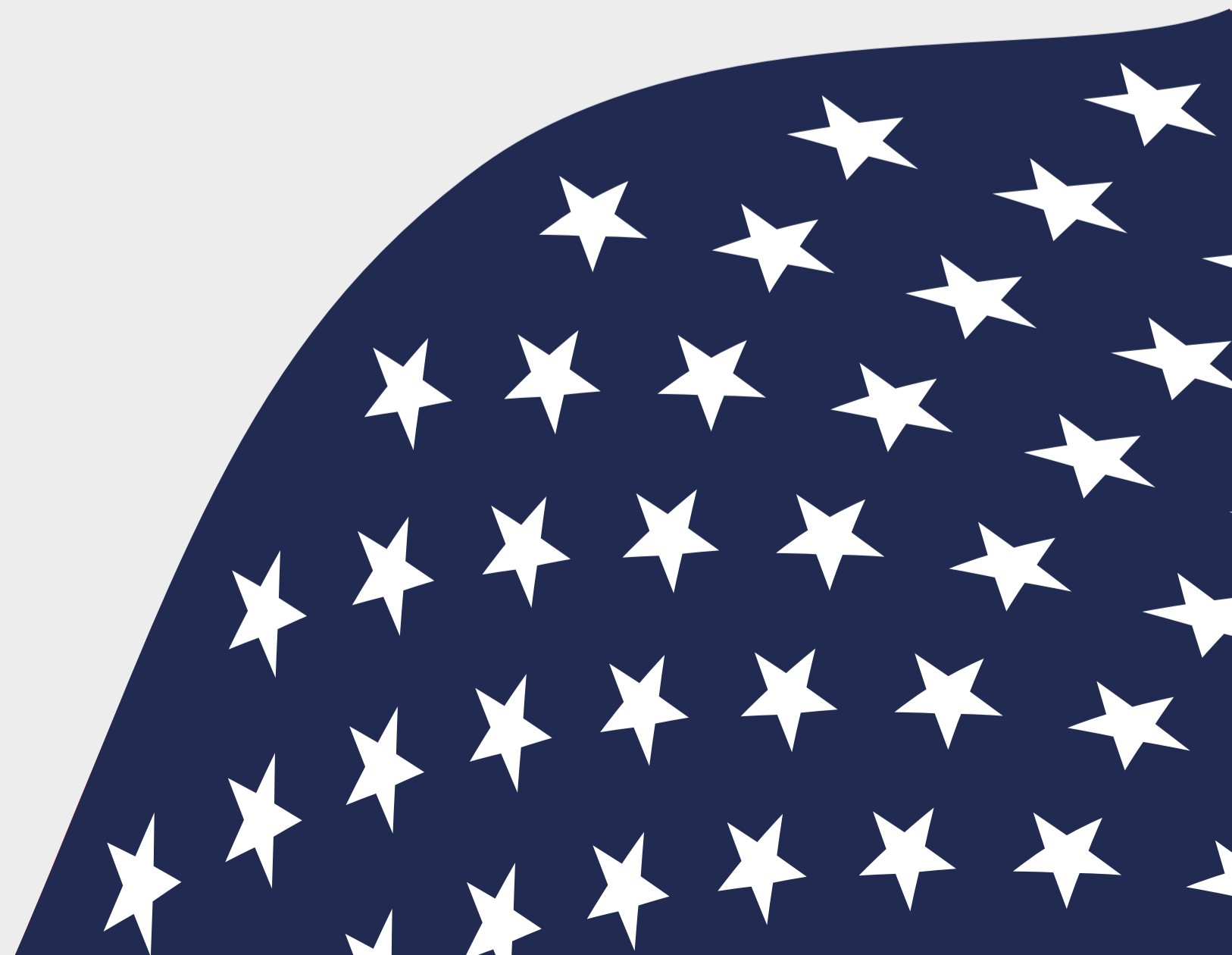
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Auditor (City)



The city auditor's main responsibility is to **maintain and strengthen the fiscal integrity** of Mount Vernon.

The city auditor's office is divided into four divisions:

1. Financial Management
2. Debt Management
3. Grants Management
4. Information Systems

All divisions aim to maximize the city's resources and promote city-wide initiatives.

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**Mount Vernon (unopposed)**

- Terry Scott - Incumbent



# Board of Education





## Board of education members:

1. Appoint a school district superintendent and a treasurer
2. Make and enforce district policies
3. Set and manage the budget
4. Make appropriations
5. Decide when to seek voters' approval for school levies

This is a non-partisan position with no term limits. The term length is 4 years.

## Danville (vote for three of the candidates on pp. 7-9)

- Carolyn E. Addair - Incumbent
  - Carolyn Addair graduated from Danville High School and has served on the Danville Board of Education for over 30 years.
- Joshua K. Byers - Not incumbent
  - No information available.
- Chris Colopy - Not incumbent
  - Chris Colopy, a Danville High School alum, graduated from Denison University with a B.S. Colopy received his M.S in Sports Medicine from Ohio University. He currently works at Danville Veterinary Clinic.
- Patrick L. Crow Sr. - Not incumbent
  - Patrick Crow graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.S in Engineering Physics. In the early days of his career, Crow served as President of Crow Mechanical Services. His public and community involvements include: mayor of the Village of Danville, executive director of Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau, vice president of the Downtown Options Corporation, and construction manager for the Woodward Opera House Restoration Project.

- David Dusthimer - Incumbent
  - David Dusthimer is a current member of the Danville Board of Education and, in a statement to CSAD, writes that he enjoys “working with the best administration & staff to provide the current students and future students with the best educational program available.”
  - Dusthimer graduated from Danville High School in 1968. He received an A.S. from The University of Cincinnati, and a B.S./B.A. in finance and management from Ashland University. Dusthimer is also a graduate of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. With experience at AT&T, Itek Systems, and Tandy Corporation, Dusthimer started his own business in 1985, Dave’s Place, and sold the business in 2006.
- Tanya J. Elliott - Not incumbent
  - Tanya Elliott graduated from Danville High School in 2001 and has been involved with the Danville School District since 1999.
- Chantele Looney - Not incumbent
  - Chantele Looney attended Danville High School in 2006. She has degrees in nursing (BSN) and healthcare administration (MBA) from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Looney now works as an adjunct professor at Mount Vernon Nazarene University.

- Darrel Severns - Incumbent
  - Darrel Severns is a current member of the Danville Board of Education. Severns, a graduate of Danville High School, studied natural resources management at Zane State College in Zanesville, Ohio, worked in construction contracting and conservation, and for the past fifteen years has been the planning director at the Knox County Regional Planning Commission.
- J. Matthew Smith - Not incumbent
  - J. Matthew Smith graduated from Danville High School and attended The Ohio State University. Smith completed his teaching certificate at Denison University and has been a teacher and coach for over twenty years.
- Dawna Stephens - Not incumbent
  - Dawna Stephens is a graduate of Danville High School and now works as a registered nurse.

Voters can find more information about the Danville school board candidates in [Cheryl Splain's Knox News story, October 2, 2023.](#)

## Clear Fork (vote for two)

- Carl J. Gonzalez - Incumbent
- Ryan Knuckles - Incumbent
- Terry E. McDermott - Not incumbent
- Troy Tingley - Not incumbent

## East Knox (vote for two)

- Lindsay Bush - Incumbent
- Alan Huffman - Not incumbent

## East Knox Unexpired Term Ending 12-31-25 (vote for one of the three candidates on pp. 10-11)

- Mark Hiner - Not incumbent
  - Mark Hiner told CSAD: “Our biggest concern at East Knox is academic performance. Our state report card scores are dropping and we must make changes to turn that around. We need to do an extensive review of our staff and ensure that we have the right people in the right places. Solutions may include additional training, adding additional staff and implementing a bonus structure. . . . I have attended board meetings for over two years. I am attending training whenever possible. I am well acquainted with the issues in our district and am willing to do the work necessary to fix them.”

- Dean Opfer - Incumbent
  - Dean Opfer was appointed to a vacated board seat in June 2023. A Knox Pages story about the appointment describes him as a manager in the financial services field and a volunteer for the school board's 2019 building levy campaign.
- Kathy Tate - Not incumbent
  - Kathy Tate holds a B.S. in Business Management and has more than thirty years of experience in computer hardware and software support and service. She is chair of the Knox County Democratic party and is a veteran of the US Air Force. In a statement to CSAD, Tate wrote “With my background in customer support, I am a problem solver.” She added, “With a background in customer support, I can help the board have more transparency with policies that have not been followed. Live, in-person/virtual board meetings that are recorded are needed. Book banning should not be done without research and fact finding. The public needs to know the policies and the board needs to better provide that information.”

## Fredericktown (vote for two of the candidates on pp. 12-15)

- Candice J. Gallagher - Incumbent
  - Candice J. Gallagher is currently the president of the Fredericktown Board of Education. Responding to CSAD's request to identify two priority issues, she writes "As a retired teacher, my first concern is always what's best for the students so that they can have a first class education at Fredericktown. As a board member I try to stay engaged with curriculum, student activities and staff in order to help provide necessary support to help the students fulfill their educational needs. My other issue that I try to stay on top of is fiscal responsibility. As a board member we answer to our community and taxpayers for decisions we make as a board. I strive to help our district to provide an education for our students with the monies we have in the budget so we do not have to ask the taxpayers for additional dollars through a levy."
  - Gallagher graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in education. She was a teacher with Fredericktown Schools for 32 years. She spent half of her career as an elementary teacher, and the other half as a middle school teacher. She ran for school board after retiring in 2015 and has been elected to two consecutive terms.

- Kristine Lindeman - Not incumbent
  - Kristine Lindeman is running for a first term on the Fredericktown Board of Education. Responding to CSAD's request to identify two priority issues, she writes "Being a school board member will allow me to give back by using my background, experience, and passion for the community to increase opportunities for our students and district. I believe a diverse skill set and variety of backgrounds are key to an effective board. With a seat on the board, I will bring new skills, connections, and resources to the district. I am also eager to learn more about school funding to help make the best decisions for our students and staff."
  - Lindeman graduated in 1994 from Clear Fork High School, and took some college courses at Bowling Green State University and Mount Vernon Nazarene University. She has lived in the Fredericktown Local School District with her husband for 23 years. One of her daughters is a 2021 Fredericktown High School graduate and the other is a 7th grader at Fredericktown Middle School. She served on the Parent Teacher Organization for 8 years and as a classroom volunteer. She also serves in various other roles in the community.

- Todd McClay - Incumbent
  - Todd McClay is a current member of the Fredericktown Board of Education and is running for reelection. Responding to CSAD's request to identify two priority issues, McClay said "...social emotional support and continued quality education. I would support initiatives for school counselors, social workers, and psychologists. I think we need to recruit and retain quality educators to continue the rich tradition of Fredericktown schools."
  - McClay has been on the Fredericktown Board of Education for eight years and is running for a third term. He is on the board's finance subcommittee and is also the liaison for the Knox County Career Center. He is active at Cornerstone Community Church where he serves on its finance committee and chairs the stewardship and building fund campaigns.

- Shelly Wenger - Not incumbent
  - Shelly Wenger is running for a first term on the Fredericktown Board of Education. Responding to CSAD's request to identify two priority issues, she wrote "One of the many things that would be important to me as a member of the school board would be ensuring that students have ample options and opportunities to become not just college-ready, but workforce-ready and that they are able to effectively compete for scholarships and jobs. I would support any policies or funding opportunities that promoted this."
  - Wenger managed and owned a small family business in Fredericktown for 18 years. She has experience in finance management and contract management. Wenger has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Ohio Northern University, is an advisor to Knox County 4H, is a member of the Parent Advisory Committee, and volunteers for the Fredericktown Music Boosters.

## Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted (vote for two)

- Judy Briggs - Incumbent John D. Carroll - Incumbent

## **Mount Vernon City Schools (vote for three)**

- Margie Bennett - Incumbent
- Jody Goetzman - Incumbent
- Tim Workman - Incumbent

## **North Fork Local School District (vote for two)**

- Jordan Atherton - Not incumbent
- Andrew Hollenback - Incumbent
- Debra Paxton - Not incumbent

## **Northridge Local School District (vote for two)**

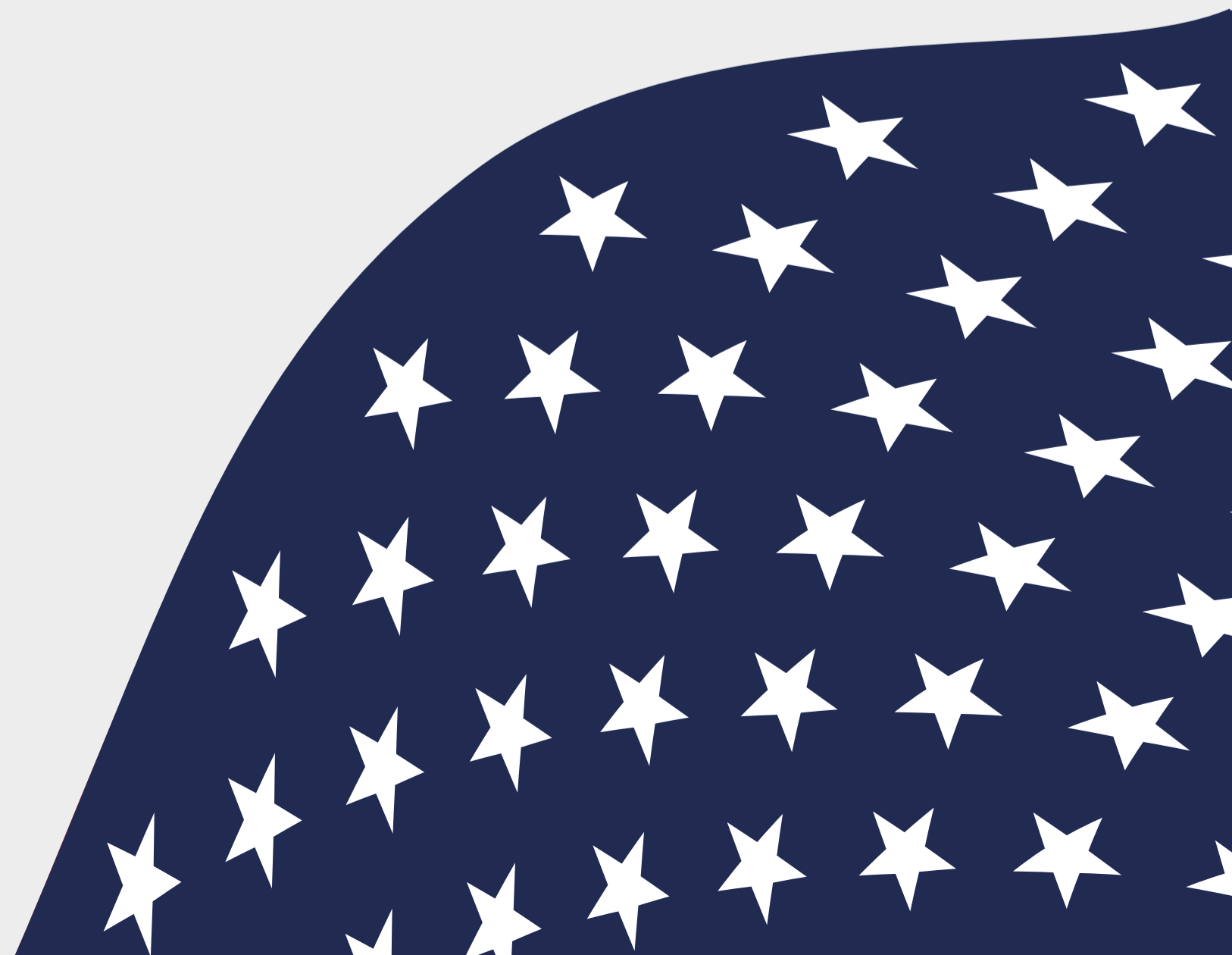
- Katlyn Creager - Incumbent
- Evelyn M. Vance - Not incumbent
- Geoffrey K. Wiggins - Incumbent

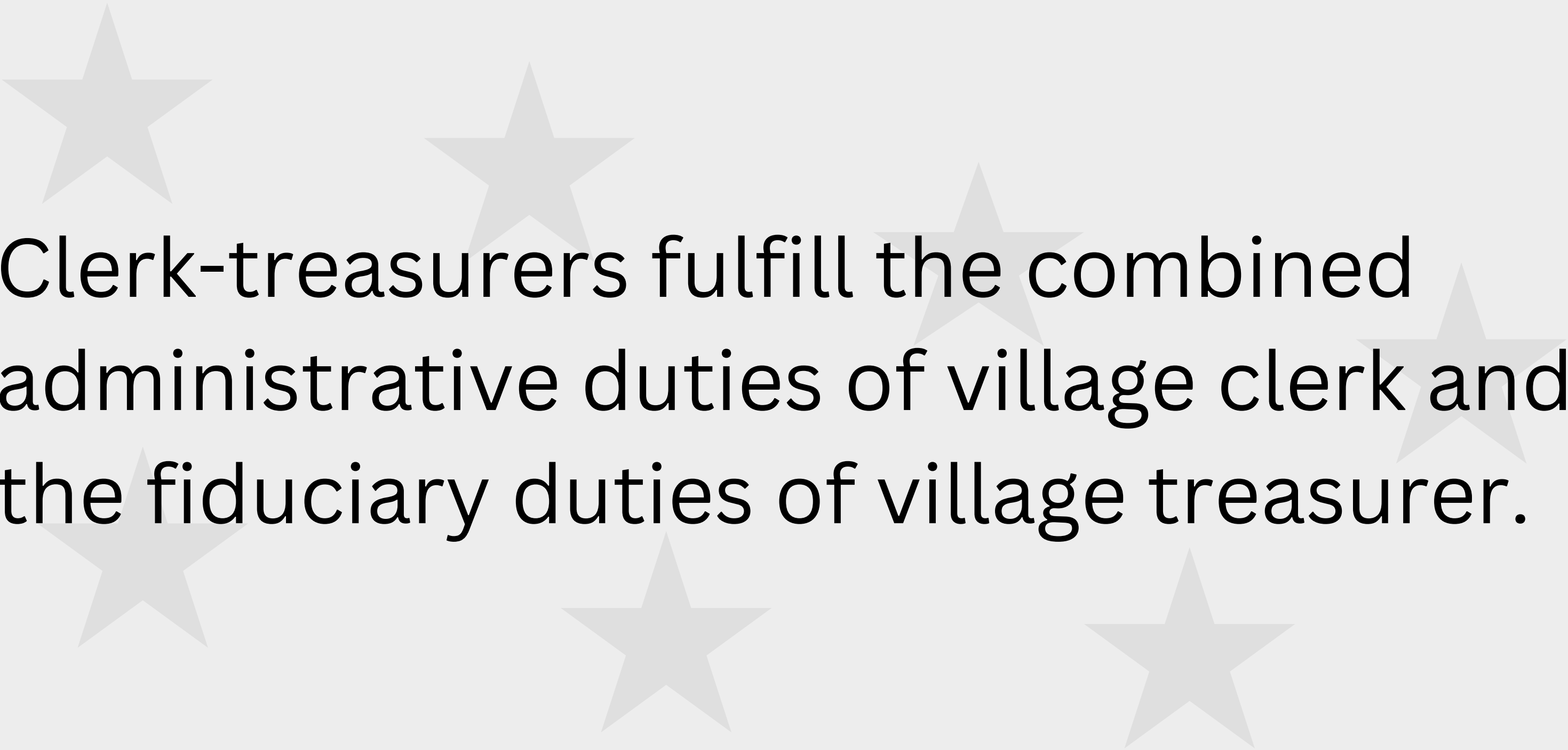
## **Northridge Local School District Unexpired Term Ending 12-31-25 (unopposed)**

- Jayma Bammerlin - Incumbent



# Clerk-Treasurer (village)



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Clerk-treasurers fulfill the combined administrative duties of village clerk and the fiduciary duties of village treasurer.

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## Danville (unopposed)

- Laurene L. Vess - Incumbent



# Council





Council members are local legislators who **enact city and village ordinances.**

Council members:

1. Set zoning regulations
2. Approve department budgets
3. Manage parks
4. Manage community relations
5. Manage other municipal affairs

In cities, council members are either elected at-large (meaning the council member represents the entire city) or are specific to a particular city ward.

## Brinkhaven (vote for two)

- Bobbi Banbury - Write-in candidate
- Christopher Hurlow - Write-in candidate

## Centerburg (vote for two)

- Dave Beck - Incumbent
  - Dave Beck is an incumbent Centerburg Village Council member and was appointed to the seat. Previously, Beck served as the mayor of Centerburg and president of village council. Beck has served on many committees, including the Joint Centerburg Village/Hilliar Township Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Heart of Ohio Trail Friends.
- Daniel Hardwick - Not incumbent
  - No information available.
- Tom S. Stewart - Incumbent
  - Tom S. Stewart is an incumbent Centerburg Village Council member and has served as president of the council. He has also served as fire chief of the Orange Township Fire Department. (Continues, next page.)

- Tom S. Stewart (continued)
  - Stewart now represents the Village of Centerburg on the Central Ohio Joint Fire District (COJFD) and serves as chairman of the COJFD Fire Board.

## **Danville (vote for two, unopposed)**

- Darin Durbin - Incumbent
- Debra L. Ridgeway - Incumbent

## **Gambier (vote for two, unopposed)**

- Alison Furlong - Incumbent
- Morgan Giles - Write-in candidate, incumbent

## **Martinsburg (unopposed)**

- Nola I. Veatch - Not Incumbent

## **Mount Vernon**

### **President of Council (unopposed)**

- Bruce E. Hawkins - Incumbent

## **Member of Council at-large (vote for three, unopposed)**

- Amber Keener - Incumbent
- Janis Seavolt - Incumbent
- Mel Severns - Incumbent

## **Member of Council, First Ward (unopposed)**

- James Mahan - Incumbent

## **Member of Council, Second Ward (unopposed)**

- John P. Ruckman - Incumbent

## **Member of Council, Third Ward (unopposed)**

- Tammy Woods - Incumbent

## **Member of Council, Fourth Ward (unopposed)**

- Michael R. Miller - Not incumbent

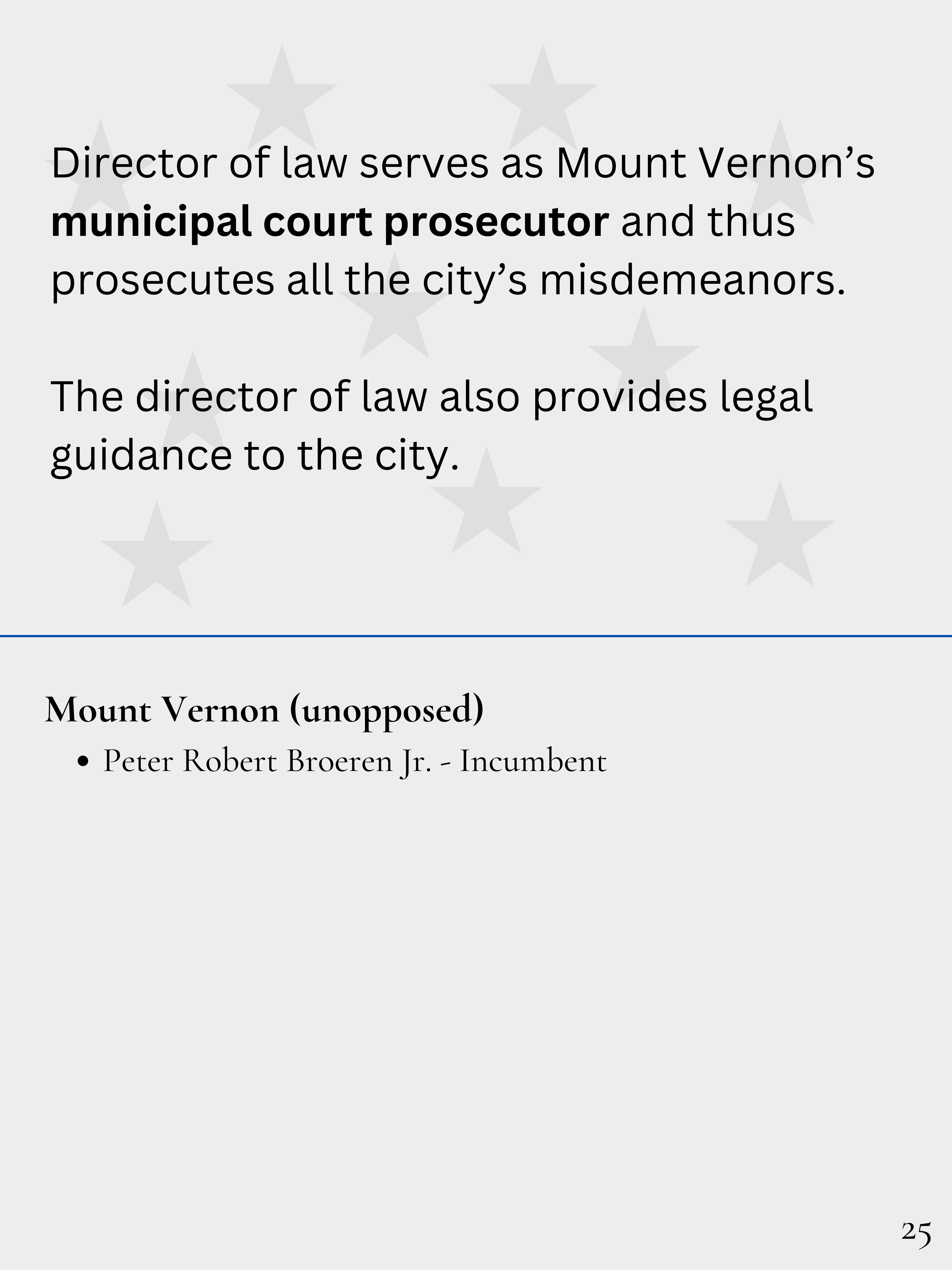
## **Utica (unopposed)**

- John Hartfield - Not incumbent



# Director of Law



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Director of law serves as Mount Vernon's **municipal court prosecutor** and thus prosecutes all the city's misdemeanors.

The director of law also provides legal guidance to the city.

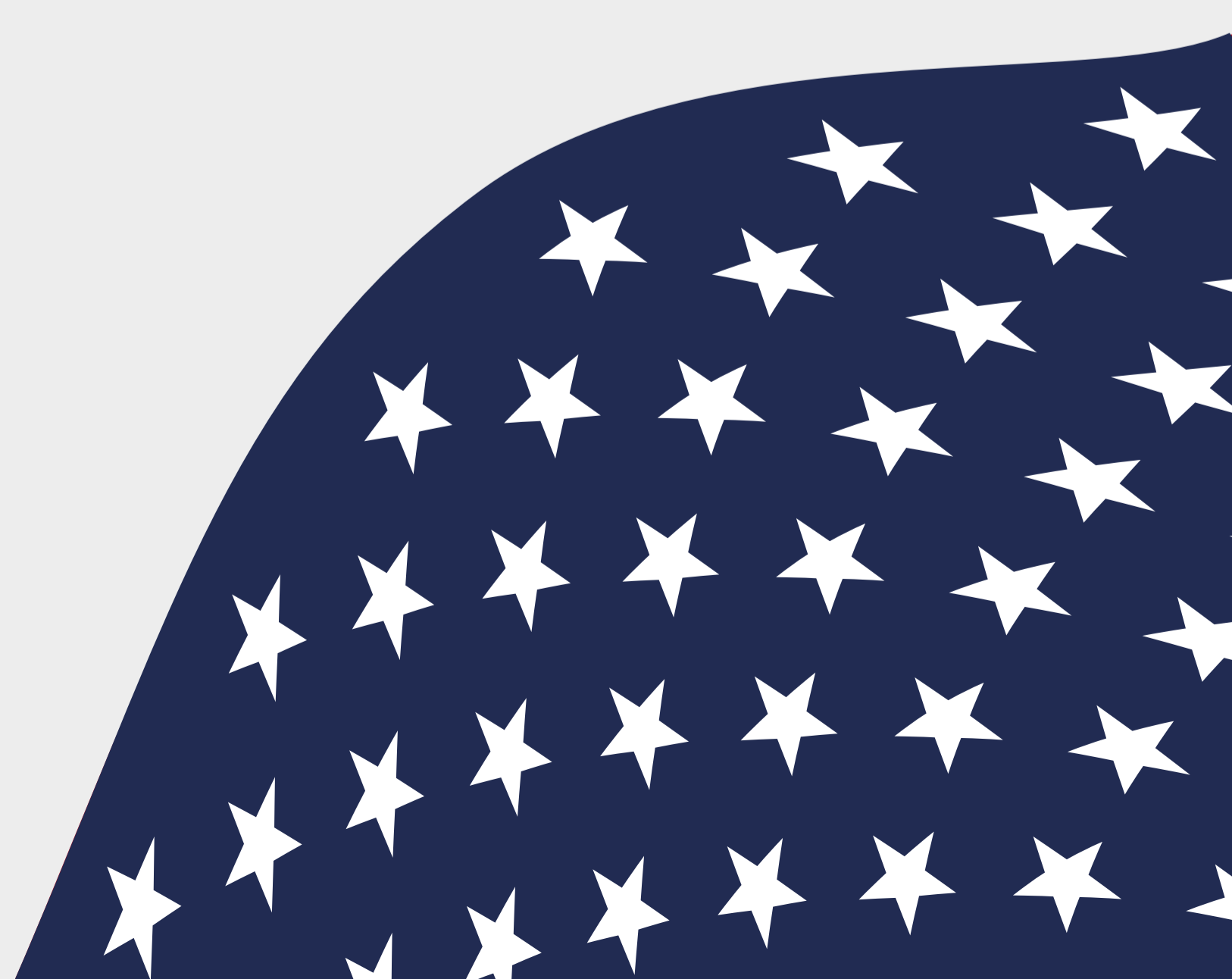
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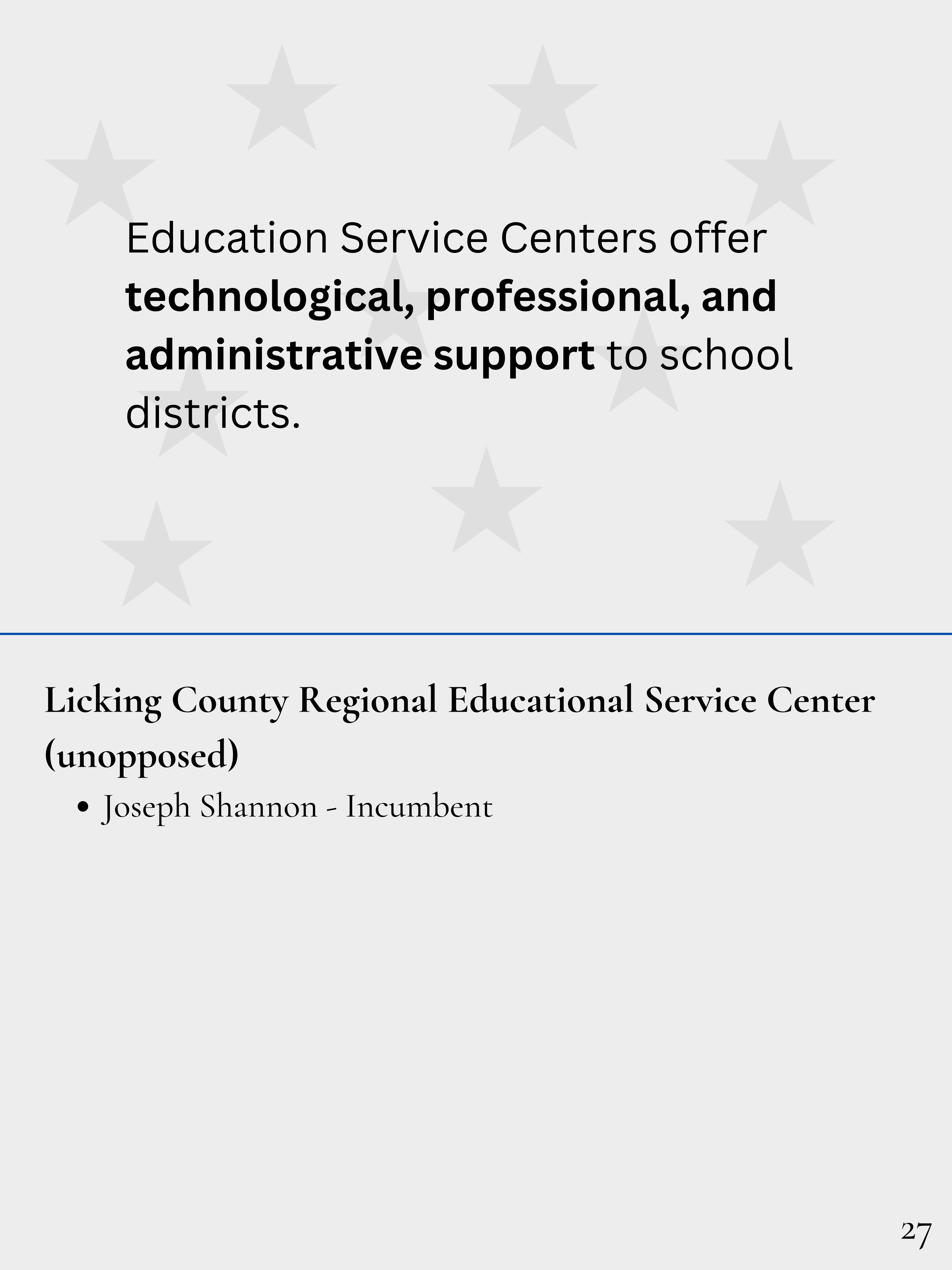
### Mount Vernon (unopposed)

- Peter Robert Broeren Jr. - Incumbent



# Educational Service Center Board Members





Education Service Centers offer  
**technological, professional, and  
administrative support** to school  
districts.

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## Licking County Regional Educational Service Center (unopposed)

- Joseph Shannon - Incumbent



# Fiscal Officer





Fiscal officers are responsible for **managing the township's financial well-being.**

Duties include:

1. Overseeing township budgets
2. Managing and overseeing township financial accounts
3. Preparing invoices for township income and spending

## **Berlin Township (unopposed)**

- Jamie Thorne - Incumbent

## **Brown Township (unopposed)**

- Baihley E. White - Incumbent

## **Butler Township (unopposed)**

- Debra Voshall - Not incumbent

## **Clay Township (unopposed)**

- Dedra Kidwell - Incumbent

## **Clinton Township (unopposed)**

- Jennifer Hubbard - Incumbent

## **College Township (unopposed)**

- Courtney DeCosky - Incumbent

## **Harrison Township (unopposed)**

- Tammy Faucett - Incumbent

## Hilliar Township (vote for one)

- Julie L. Laughlin - Incumbent
  - Julie Laughlin is the current Hilliar Township Fiscal Officer and has a degree in Business Management from Franklin University. Laughlin served as Knox County's first township administrator in 2005 and has been the township's fiscal officer since 2010.
  - In a statement to CSAD, Laughlin writes that her "goals include continuing to support the Board; maintaining fiscal accountability; and with the payoff of the last major note earlier this year, setting aside funds for future major expenditures to avoid debt and interest charges."
- Angela Webb - Not incumbent
  - Angela Webb is the owner of Webb's Marathon and has a degree in Business Management and Psychology from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. Webb previously managed the budget at the Knox County Juvenile Court.
  - In a statement to CSAD, Webb writes, "It is my priority to quickly and efficiently complete any fiscal responsibilities asked of me by the trustees and its agents. As an elected official, I see it important that I'm available to help the trustees be able to focus on the needs of the community, and support them in doing that."

# Howard Township

- Amberly Frye - Not incumbent
  - Amberly Frye is a Financial Counselor with fifteen years of finance experience and she holds a Business Management Technology degree and certifications in HR Management, Office Administration, Management, and Entrepreneurship. She expects to graduate in May 2024 with a B.S. in HR Management.
  - In a statement to CSAD, Frye said “Issues I would make a priority are before-school/after-school programs for parents that have 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. working hours and the needed repair of several areas within Howard Township. I would address these issues with the Howard Township Trustees and provide a detailed financial plan of how these issues could be approached without compromising the budget.”
- Darcy L. Knight - Not incumbent
  - Darcy L. Knight is the president of Ralston Art Memorial. She has worked for the company in a number of positions for twenty-eight years, and she also served as treasurer of the East Knox Athletic Boosters for fifteen years.
  - In a statement to CSAD, Knight wrote “Carol Gilmore has done a great job at this for the past 24 years and I hope to continue what she has done.”

## **Jackson Township (unopposed)**

- Patricia L. Frost - Incumbent

## **Jefferson Township (unopposed)**

- Jennifer Wobbecke- Incumbent

## **Morgan Township (unopposed)**

- Ali R. Matheney - Incumbent

## **Morris Township (unopposed)**

- Diana L. Clippinger - Incumbent

## **Pike Township (unopposed)**

- Alaina Swank - Incumbent

## **Pleasant Township (vote for one; candidates continue, next page)**

- Dawn Campbell - Not incumbent
  - No information available.

- Chris M.M. Light - Incumbent
  - Chris Light is the current fiscal officer for Pleasant Township and is running for reelection. In a statement to CSAD, he writes “My goal is to continue to manage the township resources in such a way that we can maintain the roads and cemeteries for our residents and plan for future equipment needs. I secured American Rescue Plan Act funding for the township (ARPA) in the amount of \$174,724.78 and will continue to manage spending to ensure we follow federal guidelines for funding usage.”
  - Light has both an A.S. and a B.S. in accounting and worked for the city of Mount Vernon for 8 years. Light writes that “having the governmental accounting background and experience of being the current office holder makes me uniquely qualified for this position. I'm already familiar with the financial software systems and work very well with the board of trustees, who are the governing board for the township.”

## **Union Township (unopposed)**

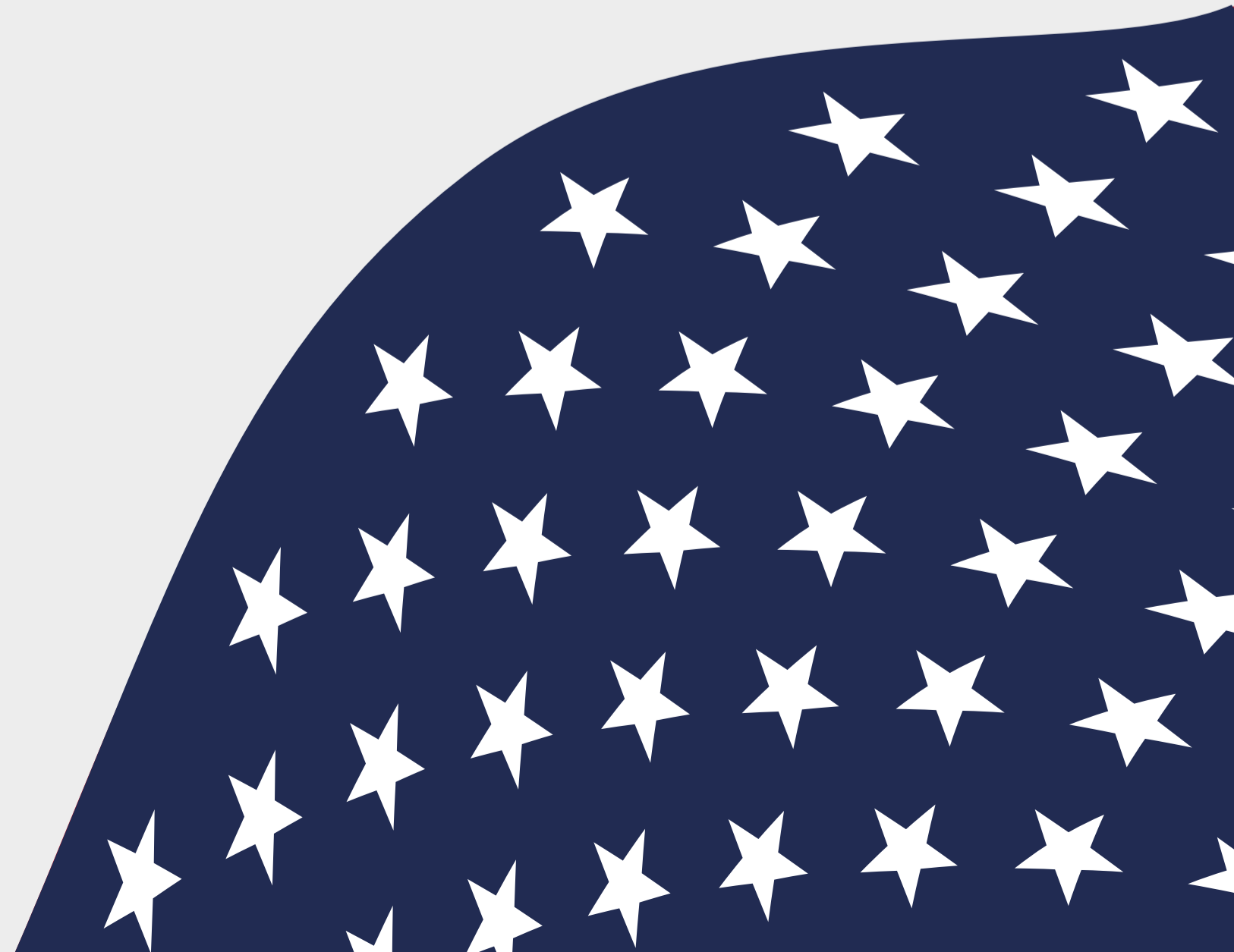
- Jennifer Samples - Incumbent

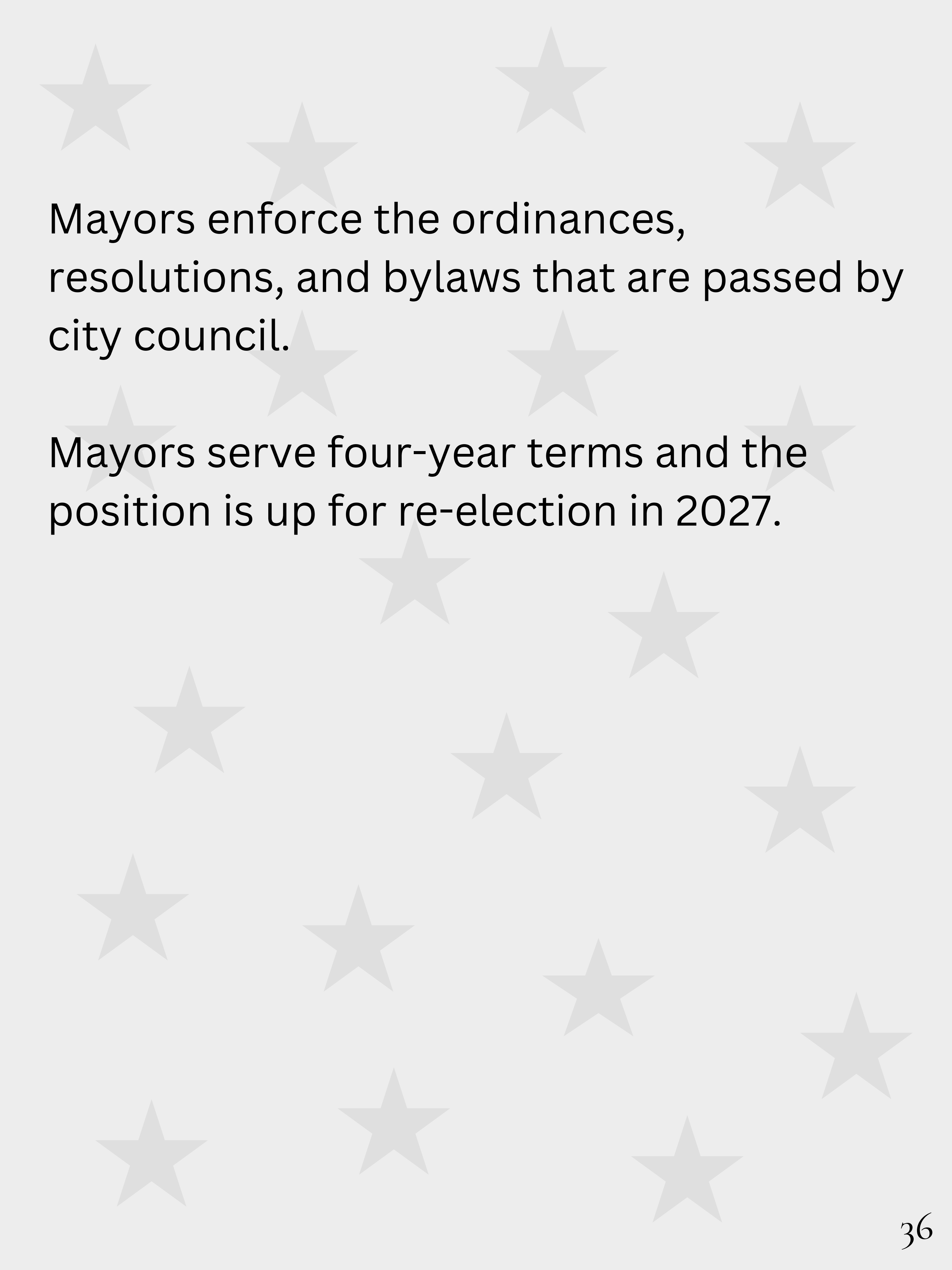
## **Wayne Township (unopposed)**

- Diane S. Randall - Incumbent



Mayor





Mayors enforce the ordinances, resolutions, and bylaws that are passed by city council.

Mayors serve four-year terms and the position is up for re-election in 2027.

## **Brinkhaven (unopposed)**

- Christopher Wyant - Write-in candidate, not incumbent

## **Centerburg (unopposed)**

- Gregory A. Sands - Incumbent

## **Danville (unopposed)**

- Joseph J. Mazzari III - Incumbent

## **Fredericktown (unopposed)**

- Jerry L. Day - Incumbent

## **Gambier (unopposed)**

- Leeman Kessler - Incumbent

## **Mount Vernon (unopposed)**

- Matthew T. Starr - Incumbent

## **Utica (unopposed)**

- James Quinif - Incumbent



# Municipal Court



Municipal court is the trial court for cases related to local ordinances, traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal charges, evictions and other landlord-tenant disputes, and small civil claims (under \$15,000).

A municipal court judge must be a licensed attorney with at least six years of legal experience and serves a six-year term.

The number of judges per court depends on the local population. The Mount Vernon Municipal Court has only one judge.

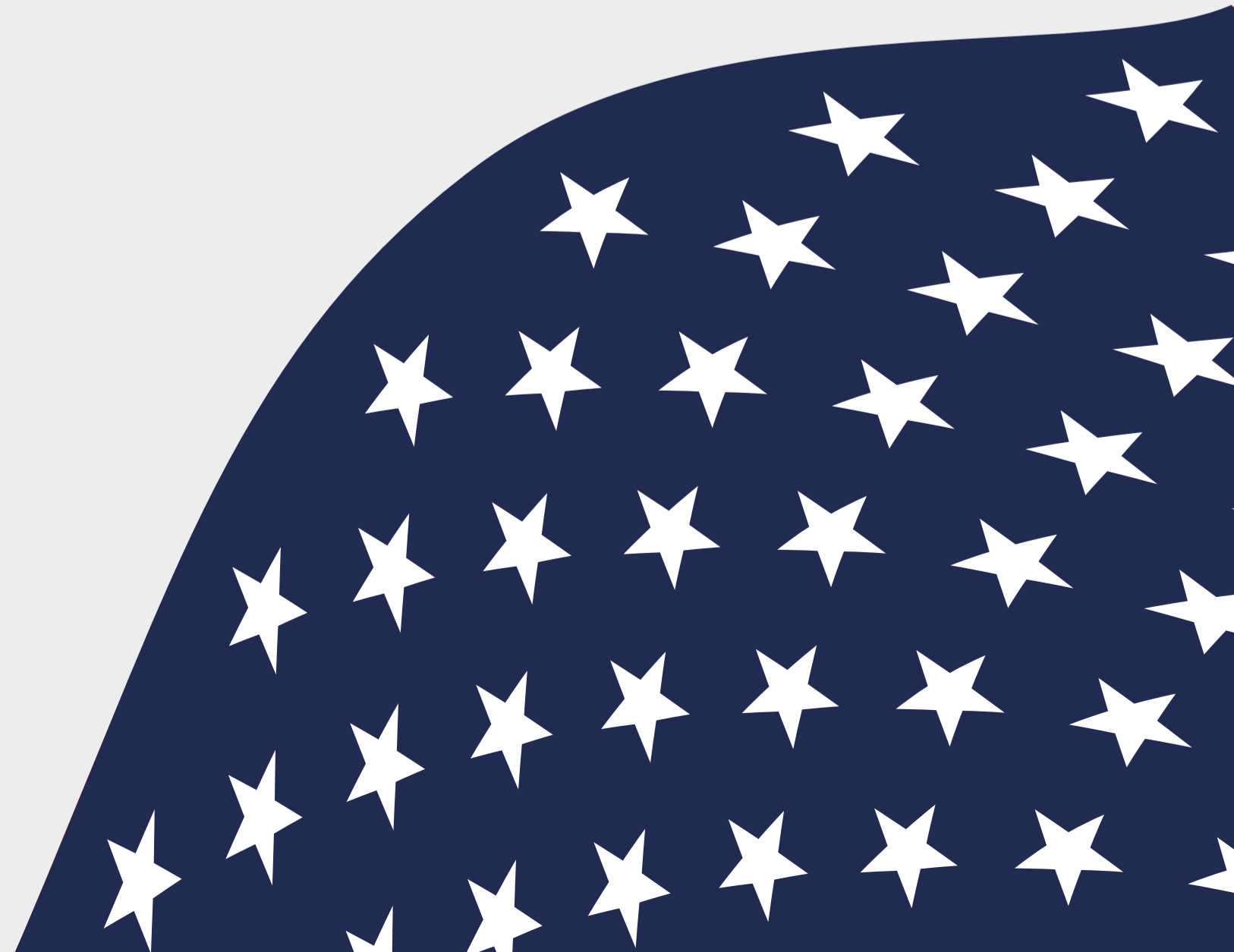
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## Mount Vernon Municipal Court (unopposed)

- John C. Thatcher - Incumbent



# Trustees



Three trustees are elected to staggered four-year terms to administer the township alongside the fiscal officer.

Their responsibilities include:

1. Proposing zoning plans
2. Managing cemeteries
3. Employing local law enforcement officers
4. Providing waste disposal services
5. Maintaining township roads
6. Establishing parks

Township trustees possess limited taxation powers to fund these activities, collecting less than 6% of Ohio's local property taxes.

## **Berlin Township (vote for two)**

- James T. Dechant - Incumbent
- Walt Farlee - Incumbent

## **Brown Township (unopposed)**

- Steve Butts - Not incumbent

## **Butler Township (unopposed)**

- Andrew G. Collins - Not incumbent

## **Clay Township (unopposed)**

- Chodd Armfelt - Not incumbent

## **Clinton Township (vote for one; pp. 42-44)**

- Danielle Daughriety - Not incumbent
  - In a statement to CSAD, Danielle Daughriety said that, “I feel the Clinton Township Trustees should be responsive to its residents. This is especially important regarding the water and sewer improvements that have been and are being implemented.”

- Danielle Daughriety (continued)
  - Daughriety is the president of Service Welding Supplies, a company in Mount Vernon. “As a business owner I have had to learn to work with people, oversee employees, solve problems and operate things as efficiently as possible,” Daughriety said. “I feel this experience would allow me to be responsive to our residents' needs and concerns. With my background I feel I would be an asset to the residents of Clinton Township.”
- Donna Hochstetler - Incumbent
  - Donna Hochstetler is running for her third full term as Clinton Township trustee. Prior to being a trustee, Hochstetler served as Clinton Township zoning inspector for 20 years. In a statement to CSAD, Hochstetler highlighted her efforts to help residents get access to clean drinking water and improve road signage. She wrote that, “I feel I try to do what is best for the Township residents, listening to their concerns as to what needs to be done. If given the opportunity to extend my time with Clinton Township, I will continue to work to improve the township for its residents.”

- John Holland - Not incumbent
  - John Holland previously served as chair of the Clinton Township Water and Sewer District. In a statement to CSAD, Holland said that as trustee, he would sell the aging sewer system to the city of Mount Vernon (in contrast with the current Trustees, who he said, “just want to give the system to the city of Mount Vernon at zero cost”).

## **Clinton Township Unexpired Term Ending 12-31-2025 (vote for one; pp. 44-45)**

- Brie Brunswick - Not incumbent
  - As Clinton Township trustee, Brie Brunswick would like to get rid of a water tax that residents pay for a water treatment plant that she says is nonexistent. In a statement to CSAD, she said that, “We’re losing people in our township – they’re electing to leave our township and join the city because of this extra water tax.” Additionally, Brunswick would focus on making sure that residents do not let their properties fall into disrepair.

- Jay Maners - Incumbent
  - Jay Maners is running for re-election as Clinton Township trustee. Maners, a business owner, was appointed to this position when a former trustee had to step down for medical reasons. As trustee, Maners wants to make sure that local government bodies are working together and not wasting money.

## **College Township (Unopposed)**

- Bernie Ingles - Incumbent

## **Harrison Township (Unopposed)**

- Claude Gates - Not incumbent

## **Hilliar Township (Unopposed)**

- John Evan Moore - Not incumbent

## **Howard Township (vote for one; pp. 45-46)**

- Craig Gilmore - Incumbent
  - Craig Gilmore is a lifelong resident of Howard Township and has served as a trustee for thirteen years. He has owned a business for twenty years, is a current member of the Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District board, has served on several boards for KCHD, and has a commercial license to operate trucks and equipment.

- Gilmore states that if re-elected, he would “continue to monitor” the ongoing road resurfacing program begun thirteen years ago. In a statement to CSAD, Gilmore wrote: “It is very important to continue to keep our roads safe and still stay within our budget. We have worked very hard to improve and maintain our roads during my three previous terms as a trustee, while never asking to increase the millage or our tax levies.”
- Martha Trese - Not incumbent
  - Martha Trese coordinates the Mount Vernon Farmers Market, is the former owner and editor of KnoxPages.com, and was the original host of AM Knox County on WMVO radio. In Columbus, she produced television newscasts for WBNS and WCMH. During her career, she has volunteered for Food for the Hungry, United Way of Knox County’s Fund Distribution Committee, the Mount Vernon High School Academic Booster Club, and Psi Iota Xi philanthropic sorority.
  - Trese told CSAD, “As a 20+ year resident of Howard Township I would like to give back to my community and provide communication and transparency to township residents in terms of zoning change requests, road repair and paving schedules. I'd also like to keep residents informed about where their tax dollars are being spent in the township.”

## **Jackson Township (vote for one)**

- Raymond Harris - Incumbent
  - Ray Harris is a current trustee of Jackson Township. He graduated from East Knox High School. No other information is available.
- Devin Claggett - Not incumbent
  - Devin Claggett graduated from East Knox High School in 2018. No other information is available.

## **Jefferson Township (vote for one; pp. 47-48)**

- Frank DiMarco - Incumbent
  - Frank DiMarco is a current trustee in Jefferson Township with a degree in natural resources from The Ohio State University and over 15 years of experience in township government.
  - In a statement to CSAD, DiMarco writes, “If elected, I would continue to help improve the health, safety, and welfare of our residents through important policy decisions. Since we recently passed a resolution to significantly increase the township's budget, without raising taxes on the community, I look forward to upgrading our roads and equipment that maintains our roads. I would also like to continue to keep Jefferson Township a beautiful place to live, for now and for future generations.”

- Mark Prager - Incumbent
  - Mark Prager is a current trustee for Jefferson Township. He was a USAF firefighter for eleven years. Prager currently lives in Greenville, Ohio where he grew up. He graduated from Waynedale High School and has been a Jefferson Township trustee for the past year.
- Roxanna L. Reiheld - Not incumbent
  - Roxanna Reiheld is running for a first term as Jefferson Township trustee. She is a former teacher at Danville Public Schools and currently lives in Danville, Ohio.

## Jefferson Township Unexpired Term Ending 12-31-2025 (vote for two; pp. 48-49)

- Larry M. George - Not incumbent
  - Larry George was previously a Jefferson Township trustee.
- Brandon Holt - Not incumbent
  - No information available.
- Steve Kauffman - Not incumbent
  - Steve Kauffman is running for a first term as Jefferson Township trustee. He is self-employed and a graduate of Danville High School.

- Monica Severns - Not incumbent
  - Monica Severns is running for a first term as Jefferson Township trustee. She is a trucking coordinator at Kokosing construction company. Severns grew up in Florida, graduating from Clermont High School and then attended Florida State University. She currently lives in Danville, Ohio.

## **Liberty Township (vote for one)**

- Kim D. Allen - Incumbent
  - Kim Allen, as a current Liberty Township trustee, has been involved in Fire/EMS, parking, and recycling issues, per local news media accounts.
- William J. Spurgeon - Not incumbent
  - No information available.

## **Middlebury Township (unopposed)**

- Larry H. Schunke - Incumbent

## **Milford Township Trustee (unopposed)**

- George Blocker - Incumbent

## **Miller Township Trustee (unopposed)**

- Jason Row - Incumbent

## **Monroe Township Trustee (unopposed)**

- Kevin L. Henthorn - Incumbent

## **Morris Township Trustee (unopposed)**

- Charles R. Rowley - Write-in candidate, not incumbent
  - No information available.
- Jerry Zirkler - Write-in candidate, not incumbent
  - Zirkler earned his A.S. in Computer Programming in 1996 at Central Ohio Technical College and worked as a system engineer until 2022, when he retired.

## **Morgan Township Trustee (vote for one)**

- Dan E. Humphrey - Incumbent

## **Pike Township (vote for one; pp. 50-51)**

- William E. Belton Jr. - Incumbent
  - No information available.
- Brayden A. Freeman - Not incumbent
  - Brayden Freeman completed a degree in Automotive Engineering at Knox County Career Center. Freeman has worked in agriculture and, since 2018, as a heavy equipment mechanic. (Continues, next page.)

- Brayden A. Freeman (continued)
  - In a statement to CSAD, regarding his work experience, Freeman stated “As a seasoned heavy equipment mechanic and truck driver with management and road maintenance experience, I can minimize wasteful spending, maximizing our potential.”
  - Freeman also stated “Communication is vital to a healthy relationship between government and citizens, and Pike Township is no exception. If elected I would work to be available and accessible for the concerns of my constituents. Accountability and transparency should exist any time tax dollars are used.”
- Pleasant Township (unopposed)
  - David Smith - Incumbent
- Union Township Trustee (unopposed)
  - Clint Kanuckel - Incumbent
- Wayne Township Trustee (unopposed)
  - Richard A. Yarman - Incumbent



# Issues on the Ballot



# State Issue 1: “A Self-Executing Amendment Relating to Abortion and Other Reproductive Decisions.”

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A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

A self-executing amendment refers to a law that becomes effective without additional steps.

Per the ballot language, the proposed amendment would:

- Establish in the Constitution of the State of Ohio an individual right to one's own reproductive medical treatment, including but not limited to abortion;
- Create legal protections for any person or entity that assists a person with receiving reproductive medical treatment, including but not limited to abortion;
- Prohibit the State from directly or indirectly burdening, penalizing, or prohibiting abortion before an unborn child is determined to be viable, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means;
- Grant a pregnant woman's treating physician the authority to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an unborn child is viable;
- Only allow the State to prohibit an abortion after an unborn child is determined by a pregnant woman's treating physician to be viable and only if the physician does not consider the abortion necessary to protect the pregnant woman's life or health; and
- Always allow an unborn child to be aborted at any stage of pregnancy, regardless of viability if, in the treating physician's determination, the abortion is necessary to protect the pregnant woman's life or health.

## State Issue 2: “To Commercialize, Regulate, Legalize, and Tax the Adult Use of Cannabis.”

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- On August 23rd, Ohio secretary of state Frank LaRose announced that The Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol had secured enough signatures to put its proposal to legalize recreational marijuana on the November ballot. This proposal is not a constitutional amendment – rather, it is citizen-initiated legislation. The state legislature would have the power to change if it passes.
- Issue 2 would legalize and regulate the cultivation, processing, sale, purchase, possession, home growth, and recreational use of cannabis by adults at least 21 years of age. Specifically, adults would be allowed to buy and possess 2.5 ounces of cannabis and 15 grams of concentrates. Cannabis has been legal for medicinal use in Ohio since 2016.
- Issue 2 would establish the “Division of Cannabis Control” within the state Department of Commerce to regulate this newly legal industry. The proposal would also create a “cannabis social equity and jobs program” to support communities that have been negatively affected by past marijuana law enforcement. Additionally, Issue 2 would establish a program for cannabis addiction services within the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Finally, the proposed law would institute a 10% sales tax on cannabis sales and allocate the funds generated to the aforementioned agencies.
- Proponents of Issue 2 argue that the enforcement of the current prohibition on recreational marijuana has been harmful to minority communities, and point to the programs that taxing this currently untapped industry could help fund. Opponents of the proposal, who include governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Children’s Hospital Association, say that it will lead to more impaired driving and teenage addiction.

# County Issues

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## Knox County: 1.1 Mill Property Tax for Children's Services

- A tax levy of 1.1 mills to increase funding for Knox County Children Services for 10 years.
- The purpose of the levy is to allow Knox County Jobs and Family Services to provide additional care to children affected by abuse and neglect.
- In a statement to CSAD, Scott Boone, director of Knox County Jobs and Family Services, said “The drug epidemic has created a catastrophic effect for many of Knox County’s most vulnerable families. As a result, Knox County JFS protected an average of 105 children per month in 2022 due to their inability to safely reside within their own homes. Placement costs for these children continue to average over \$250,000 a month. Multiple youth required residential facilities that cost \$700 per day or more. We are requesting the property tax to supplement the ongoing costs of out of home care placements as well as to uphold our responsibility to support the safety and best interests of Knox County families.”
- The increase amounts to \$39 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value of property with first payments in calendar year 2025.

# County Issues

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## Knox County: 1.5 Mill Property Tax for the Career Center

- An additional levy of 1.5 mills to improve the Knox County Career Center in Knox County for five years. Funds would go towards maintaining and updating education facilities and equipment and providing transportation services for preschool through post-secondary education.
- Statement from Superintendent Kathy Greenwich: “The Knox County Career Center Schools District serves students from preschool to adults from Knox County and more than six other surrounding counties. We have several funding sources, but the largest one is from property taxes. We currently have three levies that were voted in 1971, 1986, and 1994. They were voted in at a total of 6.4 mills, but are now collecting at 2.000255 mills from residential/agricultural properties. The 1.5 mill continuing permanent improvement levy is the first request of tax dollars since 1994, 29 years ago.
- By law, the funds will be dedicated to specific things such as the replacement of equipment (ex: boilers, HVAC, sinks, furniture, career tech lab equipment), school buses/vans, upkeep and renovations of buildings, new building additions, safety equipment (ex: cameras, doors).”

# County Issues

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## Knox County: Gas Aggregation

- In a gas aggregation program, households are grouped together and benefit from their collective buying power to obtain lower prices from natural gas companies. Both Fredericktown and Mount Vernon have aggregation programs already. The proposal is estimated to save \$100 per household if it is approved by the voters in unincorporated areas of Knox County.
- If passed, this measure would allow Knox County to automatically enroll consumers in unincorporated areas into gas aggregation programs. Customers of Columbia Gas would be enrolled, though customers of The Energy Cooperative and Cumberland Gas are not eligible as they are already enrolled in a buyers group. However, they still can vote on the proposal.
- Households would be able to opt out at any time for no cost. An opt out letter will be sent to eligible residents stipulating the rates agreed upon by the commissioners and supplier. To opt out, a resident need only sign and return the letter. Residents who have opted out can later choose to opt back in.

# County Issues

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## Knox County: Electric Aggregation

- Ohio law allows residents to choose their utility provider in a competitive market. It also allows local governments, with voters' approval, to “aggregate” customers into a buying group in order to negotiate better terms than customers could get individually.
- This ballot proposal asks voters in unincorporated areas (not in a city or village) to approve Knox County to become an electricity aggregator to negotiate on behalf of county residents in unincorporated areas.
- The county commission estimates aggregation could save each customer about \$100 annually.
- Similar programs already exist for Mount Vernon and Fredericktown residents.
- This measure would affect AEP customers who are not already in a purchasing agreement. It does not affect electric co-op customers, although they can vote on it.
- A “Yes” vote is necessary to implement this purchasing program.
- Passage does not prevent any customer from opting out of whatever price the county negotiates or choosing a different aggregator.

# Precinct Issues

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## Clinton Township: Property Tax for Fire and Emergency Services

- Two separate renewal levies appear on the ballots of voters in Clinton Township and in parts of Mount Vernon precinct I-C. For historical reasons, these levies have been presented to voters separately, but they both fund fire and emergency services including fire, rescue, and ambulance equipment costs; fire alarm communications; maintenance of buildings and water supplies; and personnel costs. Each would renew for five years.
- The 1.5 mill levy raises \$97,000 annually, costing a taxpayer \$53 for each \$100,000 of property value (as appraised by the county auditor).
- The 2.5 mill levy raises \$162,000 annually, costing a taxpayer \$88 for each \$100,000 of property value.

# Precinct Issues

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## College Township: .25 Mill Property Tax for the Cemetery at Quarry Chapel

- A .25 mill additional property tax levy for the maintenance and operation of the cemetery at Quarry Chapel, located at the intersection of Quarry Chapel Road and Monroe Mills Road. The Chapel is a registered historical landmark, not a religious institution, and it is run by the nonprofit organization Friends of Quarry Chapel. However, the cemetery grounds themselves are maintained by the township.
- In a statement to CSAD, Fiscal Officer Courtney DeCosky wrote: “Funds received from the levy would strictly be used to maintain and operate the grounds at Quarry Chapel Cemetery, which would include updating cemetery markers, the security system, mowing/landscaping, and tree maintenance, in addition to administrative costs associated with record keeping. Historically, the General Fund has been used for such expenses, which it will not be able to sustain in the future.”
- The tax would be levied over an indefinite number of years, and is estimated to raise approximately \$8,000 annually. This means that the owner of a house appraised at \$100,000 would have to pay \$9 more each year.

# Precinct Issues

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## Hilliar Township Replacement, 0.5 Mills for Cemeteries for Five Years (Precincts: Hillar A, Hilliar B)

- This levy asks voters to approve a 0.5 mill property tax in Hilliar Township for the purpose of operating and maintaining cemeteries. The levy would replace a 0.5 mill levy passed in 2018, which expires this year.
- According to Hilliar Township Fiscal Officer Julie Laughlin, the decision to replace the existing levy was made due to increased cost of materials such as fill dirt, concrete, and fuel. Cemeteries in the township include Rich Hill Cemetery in Rich Hill and Eastview Cemetery in Centerburg.
- The five-year tax will be levied in tax years 2024-2028 and collected in calendar years 2025-2029.

# Precinct Issues

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## Monroe Township: 1.5 Mill Property Tax for Roads and Bridges

- This tax will raise about \$113,000 annually to fund the general construction, resurfacing and repair of roads, streets and bridges in Monroe Township.
- The county auditor estimates this would cost \$53 for each \$100,000 of property value (as appraised by the county auditor).

# Precinct Issues

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## Liberty Township: Proposed Zoning Plan

- In the existing township zoning plan, each residential building must be on a lot with 50 feet of frontage (that is, the property line along the road). Voters are asked to approve a change to require 200 feet frontage.
- Longer frontage requirements can help to retain the rural character of a community by discouraging development of subdivisions.
- CSAD has reached out to multiple officials for further details on this measure, but was unable to learn more. Interested voters might attend the Liberty Township Trustee meeting, October 18th at 7pm at 8019 New Delaware Road, Mount Vernon, for more information about the zoning plan.

# Precinct Issues

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## Pike Township: .5 Mill Property Tax Renewal on Cemeteries

- Voters are asked to renew a 0.5 mill property tax that raises \$11,000 to operate and maintain the Bigelow Pioneer Cemetery, Phellis Cemetery, and Weaver Burying Ground. This amounts to \$17 property tax annually on each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value.

# Precinct Issues

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## Centerburg Local School District: 2.75 Mill Property Tax Increase for Permanent Improvements

- An increase in property tax of 2.75 mill with the first payment due in 2024. If approved, this property tax will last for an indefinite period of time. Centerburg Local Schools Treasurer Lori Houck explained to CSAD that because a current bond levy for the district is coming to an end, the voters will only be paying an extra 1.05 mills. For an assessed property value of \$300,000, the voter would pay an additional \$110.25 cents per year (\$9.18 per month.)
- The “permanent improvements” mentioned on the ballot refer to any improvements that last more than 5 years. This can include but is not limited to a new roof, new school buses, and sidewalk repairs.
- Treasurer Lori Houck explained that the district’s “new” buildings are over 20 years old. Recently, the district was forced to pull from the general fund in order to upgrade the HVAC system. Thus, Treasurer Houck explained to CSAD the importance of having additional funds specifically dedicated to these permanent improvements.

# Precinct Issues

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## Danville School District: 1.25% Income Tax for Schools

- A renewal of a 1.25% income tax originally approved in 2010. This levy funds the school district's operating expenses: salaries and benefits for ninety-six employees; utilities; safety measures (e.g., cameras); materials (e.g., paper, musical instruments, Chromebooks), and transportation (including bus repair).
- The levy is set to be used equally for elementary, middle, and high schools. Danville Local School District states that if this tax is not renewed, all areas of operation including, but not limited to salaries, benefits, athletic field maintenance, parking lot repairs, and building updates will be subject to review and reductions while preparing the budgets.
- The district treasurer, Tonya Mickley, explained to CSAD why building updates may be necessary: "The high school is the oldest building overall. The oldest portion of that was built in 1939; the elementary building originally was built in 1958..." The last high school addition was 1958 and an addition of the K-8 building was completed in 2002. There have been more recent internal renovations in the high school for science labs and to restructure the building to move the 7-8 grade students to the high school building.
- This levy renews the 1.25% tax in current law, although the school board voted in late 2015 to only collect 1.0%, so voters have been paying less than they previously approved.
- If passed, taxpayers with an Ohio Adjusted gross income of \$60,000 would pay \$750 annually (\$2.05/day), which would be \$150 (41 cents/day) more than currently collected. This tax would be in effect for ten years.
- See the school board treasurer's website for additional information:  
<https://www.danvilleschools.org/about-us-3/treasurers-office/>

# Precinct Issues

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## Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village School District: 10 year Renewal

- A vote for the tax levy would renew a 6 mil property tax that provides \$1.3 million annually for the school district's emergency requirements.
- An owner of property appraised by the county auditor at \$100,000 valuation pays \$210 annually.

# Precinct Issues

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## Fredericktown Community Fire District: 5-Year, 1 mill Replacement, Commencing in 2024 for Five Years

- According to Assistant Chief Jason Bostic, this levy will fund the basic operations of the fire district, including the continuation of existing services, repair and replacement of equipment, upkeep of buildings, and salaries for the workers at the Fire Department.
- This tax levy is not a rate increase over the 2003 levy it replaces. (Both have a rate of 1 mill.) It is an update to put the levy in line with current property valuations. Under this replacement levy, tax on a property with an assessed value of \$100K would be \$35 annually.
- According to Assistant Chief Bostic, the cost of maintaining and equipping the fire department and its firefighters has gone up in the twenty years since this tax levy was last updated, so passage of this levy is crucial for the basic operations of the fire department.
- Since the current levy was approved two decades ago, the fire district has seen a 102% increase in calls and has expanded its services by building a second firehouse, updating training and recruitment processes, and introducing new community outreach programs. Until now, the fire department has been able to delay the need for an updated levy through government grants, donations, and fiscal responsibility.
- The fire district website offers further details:  
<http://www.fredericktownfire.net/>.



# Glossary



# Glossary

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## Millage

“Mills” or “millage” is another way of expressing the tax rate on real property (land and buildings). One mill is equal to 1/1,000 of a dollar. So, a 1 mill tax means that for every \$1,000 in assessed property value, the property owner would pay \$1 in taxes. In Ohio, the assessed value of a property for tax purposes is 35% of its market value. For example, if a house in Gambier had a market value of \$200,000, its assessed value would be \$70,000. Therefore, every 1 mill tax increase would cost that property owner \$70 per year.

## Precinct Sample Ballot

Sample ballots for each precinct are available at the Knox County Board of Elections website, [here](https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/knox/ballotlist.aspx). In any given race, the candidates may be listed on your actual ballot in a different order than they appear on the sample ballot. The ballot in each Gambier precinct is the same.

<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/knox/ballotlist.aspx>.

## Townships

The state of Ohio has 1,308 political subdivisions known as townships with responsibilities for zoning and road and cemetery maintenance.

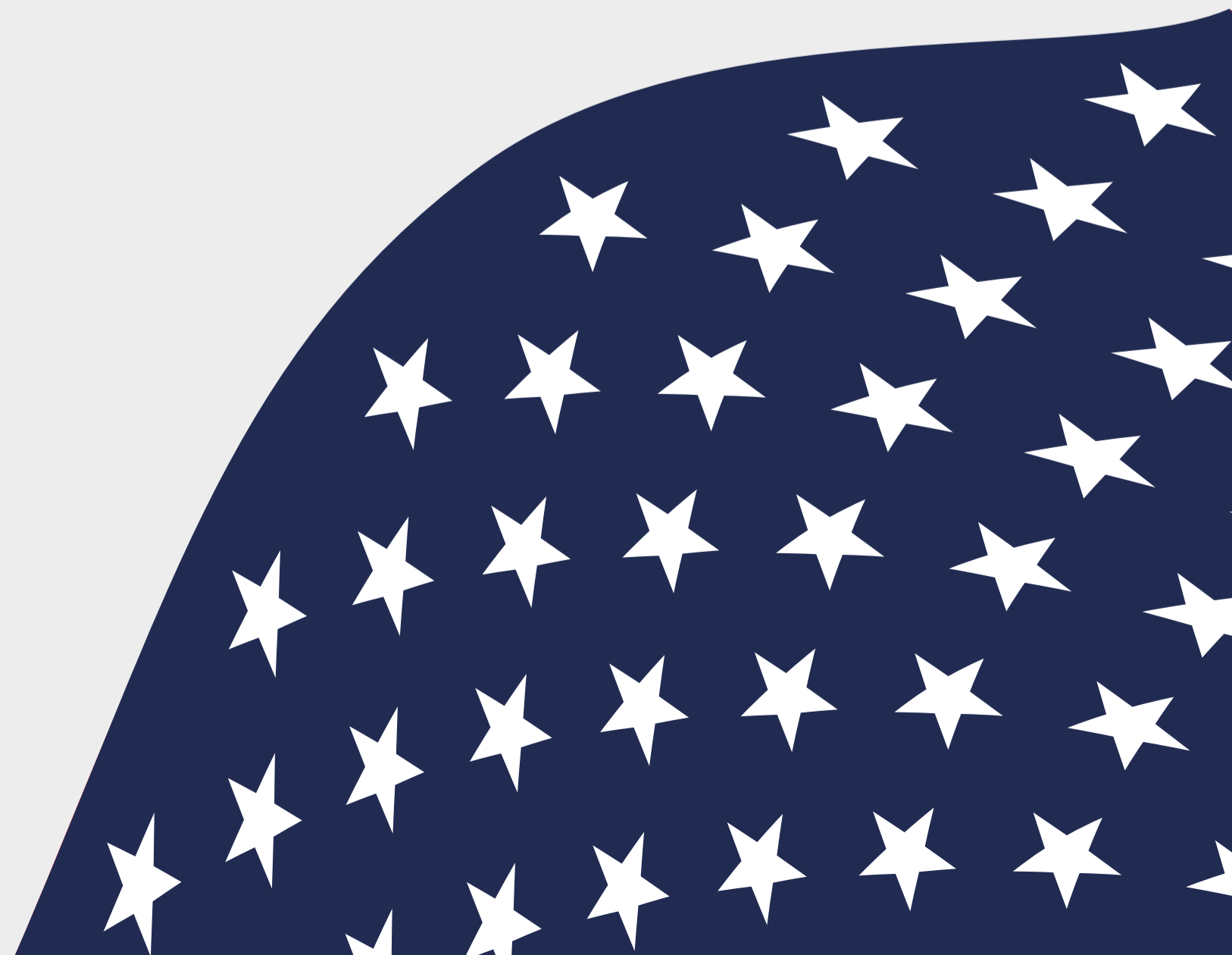
Townships may provide other services including fire and emergency medical, police, parks, recreation programs, or waste management.

Townships cooperate with each other and county/city officials through the Regional Planning Commission. Townships are governed by three elected trustees and an elected fiscal officer, who serve four-year terms.

These are part-time positions. Townships cannot impose sales or income taxes. Their only means of raising revenue is through property taxes.



# FAQs on the Election Process



# FAQs

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**Q: How do I get an absentee ballot?**

A: Absentee ballots must first be requested from Knox County Board of Elections (104 E. Sugar St., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050). Ballot requests must be received at the Board of Elections by October 31, 2023. You will then receive a ballot to complete and mail or deliver back to the Board of Elections. Your completed ballot must be postmarked by Monday, November 6 or hand delivered by 7:30 p.m. on November 7, 2023. To mail your ballot, be sure to add a 66-cent postage stamp.

**Q: How do I know where I should be voting? Am I registered to vote in Ohio?**

A: Voting locations are assigned by precinct. The street address used on your voter registration form determines your precinct and your voting location. You can check your registration details and find your polling location at the [Knox County Board of Elections' website](#).

For all Gambier residents, regardless of precinct, your voting site is the Gambier Community Center on Meadow Lane.

**Q: I am a Kenyon student and want to vote in person. Do I need to bring any documentation to the polling station?**

A: Ohio's new voter registration laws require that you bring an Ohio Driver's License, Ohio state ID, unexpired U.S. passport, a U.S. passport card or a government-issued military or veterans ID. If you do not have these documents, you should vote via absentee ballot.

**Q: When are the polls open on election day?**

A: Polls open at 6:30 A.M. and close at 7:30 P.M.



## CSAD Student Associates


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## Questions about the research and writing of this nonpartisan voter guide?

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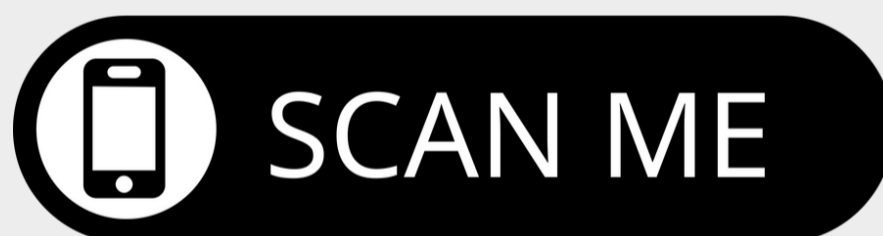
## What is CSAD?

The Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) is Kenyon's nonpartisan public affairs institution. We promote student participation in democracy and provide nonpartisan services to educate newer voters about the process. CSAD hosts panels and lectures related to democracy and public policy throughout the academic year, which are free and open to the public.





SCAN  
FOR A DIGITAL VERSION OF THIS GUIDE



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