

## LEAGUE STATEMENT

The information for the Voter Guide for the Sentinel Tribune has been gathered and prepared by the League of Women Voters of Bowling Green. The League is responsible for the format and questions for all candidates. Each candidate is requested to complete a questionnaire and is limited to a specific number of words. Candidate responses are printed without editing by the League.

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

The president of the League is Lee Hakel and the Voter Service Director is Ellen Dalton.

For information about the Voter Guide and the Candidate Forum: <https://www.lwvbg.org>.  
To e-mail the Bowling Green League: [info@lwvbg.org](mailto:info@lwvbg.org).

EARLY VOTING AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS: Check dates and time at the Board of Election website, [www.co.wood.oh.us/BOE](http://www.co.wood.oh.us/BOE) or call 419-354-0120.

GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 5, 2019

POLLS OPEN: 6:30 am to 7:30 pm

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT"

OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT  
GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5, 2019

PROPOSED INCOME TAX AND BOND ISSUE  
BOWLING GREEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HENRY AND WOOD COUNTY

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage

Shall the Bowling Green City School District be authorized to do the following:

1. Impose an annual income tax of one quarter percent (0.25%) on the school district income of individuals and of estates, for thirty (30) years, beginning January 1, 2020, for permanent improvements?
2. Issue bonds for the purpose of constructing an elementary school; renovating and improving existing facilities if funds are sufficient therefor; furnishing and equipping the same; and improving the sites thereof, in the principal amount of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000), to be repaid annually over a maximum period of thirty (30) years, and levy a property tax outside the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average over the bond repayment period one and six tenths (1.6) mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to sixteen cents (\$0.16) for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

FOR THE INCOME TAX AND BOND ISSUE

AGAINST THE INCOME TAX AND BOND ISSUE

EXPLANATION

This levy is being proposed to raise a total of a \$40 million to build a community elementary school at the north end of the campus that contains the middle school and high school. This K- 5 building, with separate wings for grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-5, would replace the current 3 elementary schools - Conneaut, Kenwood and Crim. Conneaut and Kenwood would be razed while Crim would become the school administration building and house pre-kindergarten classes.

The levy is for 30 years and is a combination of a 1.6 mill property tax and a 0.25% traditional school income tax. Both taxes are levied on residents of the school district. The levy would cost \$4.67 per month for a home with a \$100,000 market value and \$13.80 per month for the median family income of \$66,215. Taxes on farm land would average 15 cents/month per acre.

A portion of levy funds would go to a dedicated fund for capital improvements to school buildings in the district. Bowling Green City Schools has applied for state school construction funds to assist with the project.

Candidate for: **Mayor**

Name: Michael Aspacher

Address: 25 Parkwood Drive

E-Mail Address: maspacher@woh.rr.com

Web Site: Aspacher for Mayor (Facebook)

OCCUPATION: Retired member Local 50 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 50 (34 years of service).



EDUCATION: Bowling Green High School graduate 1979. Attended BGSU 1979-1982. Local 50 Plumbers and Pipefitters apprenticeship program 1983- 1987.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Member Bowling Green Board of Education 1998- 2005. Member Bowling Green City Council 2014- Present.

QUESTION #1: Why have you chosen to run for mayor and what would you like to accomplish?

It has been a great honor to serve the residents of Bowling Green's Third Ward on City Council for the last ten years, and I am highly motivated to continue to serve our community and contribute in a positive way to our future. I am extremely optimistic about Bowling Green's future. We stand on the edge of the next great era of improvement in our city. Over the course of the last several years, we have engaged in multiple planning processes that have identified many opportunities for community improvement. The time for action has come, and I am eager to lead the city into the implementation phase of these opportunities. Developing our community will require a concentrated effort to attract new investment. I am eager to consider bold, new ideas to approach economic development in a more proactive and diverse way. I believe that it is important to recognize and respect many of the long-standing traditions that have helped make Bowling Green what it is today. But I also feel that we must be willing to look forward and to take decisive action to advance our community.

QUESTION #2: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

I think it is important to take a broad view and consider the need to make all housing in Bowling Green as safe possible, not only rental housing. I have worked with City Council, administrative staff and partner agencies to maximize and promote the many resources we currently offer to help our residents identify and correct deficient conditions, both inside and outside their homes. Our partnership with the Wood County Health Department offers inspection services geared toward compliance with state building codes for health and safety conditions. Our Bowling Green Fire Division is trained and available to conduct inspections to identify unsafe housing. In addition, Bowling Green Municipal Court can work with tenants on rent collection if their landlords do not correct documented housing deficiencies within a required time period. These services are currently available to all BG residents, and we should continue to educate both renters and homeowners about how we can help them.

Candidate for: **Bowling Green Municipal Court**

Name: Mark B. Reddin

Address: 711 S. Dunbridge Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402

E-Mail Address: judge@bgohio.org

Web Site: bgcourt.org

OCCUPATION: Judge.

EDUCATION: Graduate Bowling Green High School. BS.Ed., Bowling Green State University, JD., University of Dayton School of Law.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Practicing attorney in the general practice of law 10 years. Lifelong resident of Wood County, Judge of this court since 1996. Experience and training in this office for the past 23 years.

QUESTION #1: Please explain the financing of the BG Municipal Court.

The municipal court's funding is complicated. By statute, the City of Bowling Green is the chief funding authority of the court. The cost of operations of the court are split 3/5s City, 2/5's Wood County. The court imposes local court costs to help reimburse the City for appropriations. Portions of fines flow to the City, County, and State. Some OVI fines pay for indigent alcohol treatment and alcohol monitoring. Some costs fund special accounts for court capital improvements, computerization, probation operations, security and training. The City pays salaries and wages of all employees. The County reimburses 40% of the Clerk's, Bailiff's, Judge's and Magistrate's wages. Since 1997, all amounts over \$61,750 in the judge's salary and increases passed by the state are paid out of the Supreme Court of Ohio's budget. In 1996, the Court and City began to design and build a new municipal court building. The building was completed \$480,000 under budget and occupied in 1999. The City issued bonds to finance the cost of building and equipping the court. The court contributes from its' special accounts to help pay down these bonds that are scheduled for retirement in 2024.

QUESTION #2: Please comment on your role in the opioid crisis.

My role as I see it is to direct addicted offenders to treatment so they can lead productive, law abiding lives. Many addicted offenders are not yet ready for treatment. My challenge is to effect offender behavioral change. Treatment however does not occur in a vacuum, public safety is paramount. While treatment is the preferred modality to effect offender change, the court will use the continuum of sanctions available, including jail, to coerce if necessary offenders into treatment. The court is a founding collaborative participant in the Project Direct Link program. This program seeks to get offenders treatment starting in the jail with a Vivitrol injection to block pleasure centers in the offender's brain prior to release. Offenders are then placed in a medically assisted treatment regimen with supervision by a medical doctor. The court's Probation Department retains supervision over the offender to maintain offender compliance with treatment. Treatment works, people recover.

Candidate for: **Bowling Green City Council, Fourth Ward**  
Name: Jeff Dennis

Address: 345 N. Grove St.

E-Mail Address: JeffDennisFor4th@gmail.com

Web Site: JeffDennisFor4th.squarespace.com

Twitter: @JeffJDennis



OCCUPATION: Student, University of Toledo College of Law.

EDUCATION: Bowling Green City Schools. Bowling Green State University. University of Toledo College of Law.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: In addition to formal legal training in zoning, land use, and statutory interpretation, I'll bring a fresh approach that's focused on the real challenges and opportunities facing our community.

QUESTION #1: How would you address downtown parking so more people are satisfied?

I was satisfied when it seemed the City and downtown business owners were nearing a deal that would've provided free parking for citizens who wanted to go downtown to support our local businesses. Instead, Council doubled rates, increased fines, and installed more kiosks. Short term we can install better signage so visitors are better able to locate public parking. We also need to revamp the alleys and thoroughfares connecting our parking lots with our streets. Long term we should be exploring the building of a mixed-use parking garage with retail on the ground floor, which multiple studies have now confirmed would be self-sustaining (not a net drain of fiscal resources). This would eliminate the cost of enforcement (half the parking budget) and free up more public land downtown for further development (ideally of affordable, high-density housing, since more people living downtown means more people supporting local businesses, more money in the pockets of local business owners, and more money staying right here in our community). Finally, if someone would rather drive 25 minutes to Perrysburg than walk 10 minutes to support our local businesses -- unless they're elderly or disabled -- we should stop calling that a "parking" problem.

QUESTION #2: What can be done to make the East Wooster Street entrance to the city more attractive?

We've done a great job partnering with the University and ODOT to give the East Wooster Corridor a much-needed facelift. What I think is important now is that we realize that visitors to our city don't stop at Wooster, and neither should our revitalization efforts. Bowling Green homeowners have already lost more than \$54 million in property value because of the conditions of our neighborhoods, and it's no longer limited to the east side of the city. We need to incentivize reinvestment in our neighborhoods and consistently enforce the laws we already have in place. It needs to become more expensive to be an absentee landlord in Bowling Green, which is something that will benefit our homeowners, renters, and any landlord who adequately maintains their properties (i.e., follows the law) and wants to see our city thrive.

QUESTION #3: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

This issue doesn't need to be as controversial as we've made it here in Bowling Green. We should focus on building and strengthening partnerships with major stakeholders before we try ramming regulation down their

throats. We have plenty of decent landlords here in Bowling Green with a vested interest in the success of our community. Most violations discovered through rental inspections are cheap, easy fixes like missing smoke detectors, so we should be able to agree on a reasonable plan to ensure rental housing is safe. However, if an agreement can't be reached that ensures safe housing for every single person living in Bowling Green then the city should be prepared to pursue other means to accomplish the goal. A tenant's bill of rights would be a good start, which could be as simple as a mandatory disclosure educating renters on who to call if they believe the property they're leasing is not compliant. We're not reinventing the wheel -- a variety of programs have been implemented and passed constitutional muster in hundreds of communities across Ohio and the United States. Anyone who would like to fight the city and defend "business as usual" in court will lose.

Candidate for: **Bowling Green City Council, Fourth Ward**

Name: William J. Herald

Address: 1030 Conneaut Avenue, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

E-Mail Address: williamjherald@gmail.com

Web Site: www.williamjherald.org

OCCUPATION: Data Scientist for First Solar.

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

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: 1½ years currently on Council, 8 years previously on Council, 23 years faithful Council meeting attendee, 26 years business experience, 11 years university teaching experience, 42 year Bowling Green resident.

QUESTION #1: How would you address downtown parking so more people are satisfied?

Council has been proactively working to fashion a balanced approach to addressing downtown parking. Potential solutions should: (a) aid downtown businesses; (b) be sensitive to citizen needs/preferences; (c) provide for general parking needs (e.g., number of spaces and proximity to businesses); (d) adhere to the updated master plan; and (e) be fiscally prudent. Recently, Council has raised parking fees, maintained free parking on Main Street and Wooster Street, changed handicap parking to free parking, and adjusted the hour limits on certain spaces. In addition, Council took advantage of the opportunity to purchase additional land (south of the Police station) in order to: (i) have control over potential uses and (ii) provide for additional and more aesthetic parking. And, due to the disruption caused by the downtown infrastructure work, free downtown parking was instituted through the end of this year. Future actions should build on the progress made this past year while adhering to the criteria listed above. When the parking changes were made earlier, Council Member Rowland stressed that this should be revisited in the future. I echoed her comments. These many updates should be reviewed next year along with continued implementation of Community Action Plan recommendations.

QUESTION #2: What can be done to make the East Wooster Street entrance to the city more attractive?

A short answer would be to simply point to the extensive improvements to the East Wooster-I75 area including inviting bridge work, a wide walk lane, and roundabouts. However, there are many other initiatives which have been, are being, and will be implemented. As part of a comprehensive, multi-prong approach to moving Bowling Green forward, Council and others have been simultaneously planning and implementing a number of initiatives. These initiatives include the recommendations outlined by Development Strategies in their East Wooster Street study. (Instead of listing them here, please refer to the report at <https://www.bgohio.org>.) Council is currently providing specificity to the desired development of the northwest corner of Thurstin and East Wooster. Council created the Historic Preservation Commission. Council will be voting on legislation to revise future off-street parking requirements to improve the appearance of parking areas (e.g., providing attractive screening). Importantly, Council has begun the extensive process for updating the city's zoning code. Much planning has taken place, much work has been done. Armed with a plan, partnerships (including the



university, hospital, developers, and citizens), and shared vision—these improvements will continue and further improve East Wooster Street and the city.

QUESTION #3: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

Currently, renters have the option to request that the Fire department conduct a safety inspection of their apartment. In the past, there have been discussions about rental licensing, inspection, and/or registration. Discussion has also included whether to have the chosen mechanism(s) be mandatory or voluntary and with or without incentives or penalties. I believe the time has come to seriously address this issue.

There are no shortcuts to fashioning a solution. Fortunately, we have a model for the approach to take. A number of years ago, there was a similar issue brought forward involving Section O of the city ordinances. A Committee was put in place with representatives from a number of stakeholders (including neighborhood association members and landlords). It was a pleasure to see them roll up their sleeves and **work together**. Council should put together a similar committee to report back to Council. Putting together a committee is not appealing to some. But, the alternatives (attempting to put together a solution quickly and/or without input from those who are knowledgeable) are not likely to succeed. Diligence, a specific purpose, a time table, a knowledgeable committee of stakeholders, and Council oversight provides the best formula for success.



Candidate for: **Bowling Green City Council, First Ward**

Name: Mark Hollenbaugh

Address: 315 Parkview Drive Lot 92 Bowling Green, Ohio, 43402

E-Mail Address: markforcouncil@yahoo.com

Web Site: N/A

Twitter: N/A



OCCUPATION: High school history/government teacher.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Bowling Green High School and earned both a bachelor and master's degree from Bowling Green State University.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Previously represented First Ward, on the city's Planning Commission for six years, and eight years on the executive committee for the Eastside Residential Neighborhood Group.

QUESTION #1: How would you address downtown parking so more people are satisfied?

Bowling Green's downtown parking situation has been exacerbated over the past year due to the necessary but lengthy and extensive infrastructure upgrades. The downtown area is reaching a point where additional parking cannot be created without tearing down existing buildings or the construction of an expensive and cost ineffective parking structure. This year the city acquired over 30 parking spaces previously owned by Huntington Bank and these spaces will be developed for public use in 2021. Currently there are a total of 496 parking spaces in the immediate downtown area of which 94 are free. The remaining spaces are metered in some way, those funds being necessary for the maintenance of existing parking lots. Some residents have expressed concerns about the movement towards parking kiosks rather than traditional metered lots. I will admit that I, too, have been reluctant to make this change having yet to park in a lot that requires me to interact with a kiosk. Moving forward it will continue to be necessary for the city to work in concert with the Special Improvement District to help meet the parking needs of our downtown businesses.

QUESTION #2: What can be done to make the East Wooster Street entrance to the city more attractive?

There are a number of recommendations that have been made, both in the Community Action Plan finalized in February 2018, and the East Wooster Development Plan submitted in December 2018. Improving the gateway from I-75 is in the best interest of both the city and university and will require collaboration. Although there was initial concern expressed by some about the new roundabouts, I believe they have greatly improved the ease of travel to and from the interstate. The area immediately off I-75 will undergo a beautification effort with more trees and shrubs, improved signage, and higher design standards which are automobile friendly but esthetically pleasing. Between the interstate and Mercer will be businesses primarily catering to visitors such as restaurants and hotels. The area between Mercer and Manville will be pedestrian friendly, with quality housing for young professionals possibly including townhomes. The initial major project being considered will be at the corner of Thurstin and East Wooster. This will be a mixed use building that will include shops on the lower level and apartments up above. The blocks between Thurstin and downtown will see a mixed use of housing, retail, and office spaces that are creative, vibrant, and welcoming.

QUESTION #3: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

The inspection of rental properties has been a topic of discussion in Bowling Green for over a decade, and, in my opinion, it is the only way to guarantee that all rental properties are in compliance with current health and safety regulations. Inspections have been a priority for members of the East Side Group and have ranked first of fifteen items in their 3-5 year survey. A city-wide rental property registration and certification process was listed as a priority in the recent Community Action Plan as well. As long as a process which respects individual property owner's rights is adopted, inspections are lawful and enforceable. At the very least, inspections should be mandatory for rental properties that were not originally designed to be multi-unit rental properties. Bowling Green has many aging properties which have been converted to multiple unit rentals. Some of these homes are over one hundred years old and may not be in compliance with modern safety standards. Inspections are the only way to ensure the safety of our residents.

Candidate for: **Bowling Green City Council, Third Ward**

Name: Ryan J. Holley

Address: 938 Clark St.

E-Mail Address: ryanjholley@gmail.com

Web Site: [www.Facebook.com/CitizensForHolley](http://www.Facebook.com/CitizensForHolley)

Twitter: @RyanJHolley



OCCUPATION: Deputy Registrar (owner/operator), Bowling Green License Bureau. Assistant Teaching Professor, Bowling Green State University.

EDUCATION: BS Business Administration, Bowling Green State University. MBA, Bowling Green State University. Bowling Green City Schools.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: 9 years Planning Commission. Member Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Project Team. Representative to Economic Development Redevelopment Council. Lifelong Resident.

QUESTION #1: How would you address downtown parking so more people are satisfied?

The City's purchase of the lot behind Ace – on the east side of Court St. – will help increase parking. The increase of parking meter rates will not deter customers yet will provide revenue for maintenance of the lots, especially as we have over 150 free spaces (2-hour limit) downtown. New zoning that encourages mixed use development/redevelopment will improve walkability and fit within the Future Land Use and Community Action Plans.

QUESTION #2: What can be done to make the East Wooster Street entrance to the city more attractive?

Working on the priorities as outlined in the Community Action Plan and Future Land Use Plan will make the East Wooster St. entrance to BG more attractive. The new Gateway District being drafted, along with the current discussion about buffers and front parking lots, will also facilitate this. To be successful, though, we need to stop shifting all our focus to reactionary pet projects and get back to work. I agree that our zoning codes need updated – and in such a way that development and redevelopment is encouraged and welcomed. Restrictive ordinances result in restrictive and segmented growth. We need to partner with key stakeholders like BGSU, eastside residents, and businesses along East Wooster St. to develop reasonable plans to develop mixed-use properties and reinvest in existing properties in ways that meet the vision for BG outlined by the community in the Future Land Use and Community Action Plans. Some major focuses of our work should be walkability, various housing options, businesses that attract our target market, and opportunities for business start-ups. Many of the “problem houses” along East Wooster have been purchased and razed by the University.

QUESTION #3: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

Why do we only care about renters? We should be concerned for the safety and wellbeing of all our neighbors. Focus on all housing stock. We need to ensure housing is safe and available for everyone. Let's focus on robust enforcement of existing codes, increasing/reallocating enforcement staff, revisiting penalties for

violations, and educating residents about their rights and resources. This would include the existing contract between the City and the Health Department, as well as the Fire Department's willingness to check for safety hazards. Residents should be encouraged to reach out to welcome these entities inside. Public-private entities can be leveraged to identify and address housing concerns. In some cases, these entities can pursue the purchase and demolition of "problem houses," like what the university did along East Wooster St., to pave a way for new development. Additionally, we can pursue a partnership between the City, University, property owners, neighborhood groups, and other interested stakeholders to incentivize property maintenance through an awards program that uses judges from each of these groups. This partnership will better market Bowling Green as a welcoming and positive community as opposed to one of overreaching government and excessive regulations filled with loopholes.

Candidate for: **Bowling Green City Council, At Large**

Name: Neocles B. Leontis

Address: 119 N. Summit St., Bowling Green OH 43402

E-Mail Address: nleontis@gmailcom



Web Site: [https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-for-Neocles-Leontis-2417631155125490/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-for-Neocles-Leontis-2417631155125490/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

OCCUPATION: Professor of Chemistry, Bowling Green State University.

EDUCATION: B.S. in chemistry from Ohio State University (1977), AM in physical chemistry Harvard University (1981), Ph.D. Biophysical Chemistry, Yale University (1986).

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Active in Civic, Energy, and Environmental issues for many years. Research and science educator for 33 years.

QUESTION #1: How would you address downtown parking so more people are satisfied?

Kiosk systems reduce costs for the City and allow flexible billing according to time. However, they may be difficult to use for older people or those with disabilities. We should allow free parking for people with Handicapped status.

QUESTION #2: What can be done to make the East Wooster Street entrance to the city more attractive?

In addition to “more attractive,” E. Wooster should be functional and safe for all users, not only powered vehicles – pedestrians, bicycles, and scooters. These features should extend across the city – from Dunbridge to the East to Wintergarden on the west. We need user-activated cross-walks at Maple St. to provide children safe access to City Park. We need marked bicycle lanes, distinct from where powered vehicles are allowed and where pedestrians walk. Wooster and Main are wide enough to accommodate this, as is done in many cities for major thoroughfares. By the railroad tracks we should reserve space to develop a multi-modal transportation hub, including train station (to anticipate future passenger rail), bus and taxi loading area, and bicycle parking. We need to rezone downtown and University area to allow high-density, affordable housing to accommodate students and young families of people who provide vital services to BGSU, the hospital and other key businesses and institutions, but who earn limited wages. We should establish non-profit development agencies to make this possible. New development funded by the City should serve everyone, not just those with high incomes who can afford luxury apartments.

QUESTION #3: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

This is an issue because in BG, unlike many college towns, you can put old houses up for rent without undergoing ANY fire or health inspections. Consequently, we have many unsafe properties for rent, with antiquated electrical systems that do not meet modern code and that lack modern circuit breakers and three-prong grounded outlets for computer equipment. They pose fire and electrocution hazards. We must warn renters of these hazards. Imagine if we did not inspect our restaurants? Who would want to eat out? We must address this situation using effective approaches that have been proven to work in other municipalities. This is a real danger – one of my family members almost died in an apartment fire in BG. The solution must be

comprehensive - we should not attempt “voluntary” programs that have proven ineffective time and again. Health inspections are needed to identify mildew and mold which cause allergic reactions, leading to school and work absences, lost income, and unnecessary medical expenses. We must insulate all rentals to reduce residents’ utility costs to keep money in our community and help our businesses; to ensure all children sleep warm; and to reduce pollution.

Candidate for: **Bowling Green City Council, Third Ward**

Name: Rachel Phipps

Address: 920 Clark St.

E-Mail Address: [rhs.phipps@gmail.com](mailto:rhs.phipps@gmail.com)

Web Site: [phippsforcouncil.squarespace.com](http://phippsforcouncil.squarespace.com)



OCCUPATION: Freelance Writer, Attorney, & Stay-At-Home Parent 2016 – present. Assistant Dean for Communications. University of Toledo College of Law 2011 – 2016. Environmental Attorney. Ohio Attorney General's Office 2008 – 2010.

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

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Curiosity, Empathy, Work Ethic

QUESTION #1: How would you address downtown parking so more people are satisfied?

The goal for downtown parking should be to make it easy for visitors and residents to support our downtown businesses – parking must be easy to find and easy to use. Near-term, in order for the new kiosks to be successful, the city should work with and educate kiosk users. Long-term, we should include a parking garage near downtown in the vision for redevelopment along East Wooster. This would allow the existing lots to be used to greater effect, perhaps permitting restaurants and bars to create patios, or allowing new development. Currently, the fees and fines collected by the city pay for enforcement and lot maintenance. Let's see what lessons can be learned from the current parking fee suspension and revisit making parking free and modifying or eliminating time limits. Finally, convenient parking is only one way in which the city can support a more vibrant downtown. A few others: Let's make Main Street and East Wooster more pedestrian- and bike-friendly, explore rerouting trucks around downtown, spruce up alleys with murals, and pepper the sidewalks with art-inspired bike racks.

QUESTION #2: What can be done to make the East Wooster Street entrance to the city more attractive?

Consultants' plans ordered by the city and BGSU outline a good blueprint for redevelopment along East Wooster — now is the time for action. The first step is to revamp our city's zoning code. We also need to create architectural and landscaping design standards that address signage, site design, lighting, screening, and open space. We need to ensure the process is predictable for developers, and the result something our city can be proud of. The goal for all development near downtown should be higher-density living that is pedestrian- and bike-friendly, filled with amenities and public art that tells our community's story and values. To that end, we should create an Arts Commission and develop a policy to plan for, fund, and seek out art for public spaces. Public art is a relatively low-cost investment with a big return. While city government's role in redeveloping East Wooster is certainly to update laws and regulations that are no longer serving Bowling Green and strategically employ tax incentives to encourage and fund improvements, it is *much* more than that. We need leaders who can find common ground where there are diverse interests and deliver creative solutions.

QUESTION #3: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

More than half of Bowling Green's homes are rentals, and I am confident we can all agree that rental housing should be safe. The city must continue to build relationships with property owners and to educate tenants on their rights and responsibilities. Our Community Action Plan, completed in 2018 after significant community input and efforts to involve all interested parties, including landlords, recommended a landlord self-certification program, which to date hasn't been enacted by council. I think such a scheme is a great starting point. Landlords would be asked to submit a self-certification safety checklist annually to the city. The city would then partner with BGSU for education and outreach to renters. The college town of Amherst, which was included as a case study in the Community Action Plan, has achieved 100 percent landlord participation in a similar program. Many communities across the country have confronted the issue of rental safety and employed a range of strategies. We can learn much from our peers. The city must be willing to consider and work on this issue – it is one that affects more than half of our residents. The goal: Affordable, safe housing for all, students to seniors.



Candidate for: **Bowling Green City Council, Second Ward**

Name: John Zanfardino

Address: 244 South Summit Street

E-Mail Address: johnzanfa@gmail.com

OCCUPATION: Retired Rehabilitation Coordinator.

EDUCATION: MA in Sociology- BGSU; BA in Sociology- BGSU.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: I am long term resident of Bowling Green with a history of community and political involvement. Twenty plus years of management experience.



QUESTION #1: How would you address downtown parking so more people are satisfied?

I believe the best way to address Downtown parking would be to devise a free parking system. Local businesses operate at a distinct disadvantage in this time of Internet shopping and they need creative assistance. This could be accomplished via an extremely minimal assessment on our residents or via an annual assessment on the local businesses. The latter approach was discussed in town and this idea received some interest. The annual fees were not exorbitant and were based on proximity to the Downtown parking lots. This idea was not implemented but this should be revisited if we encounter problems with our current direction. Our current solution involves replacing our maligned kiosks with a reportedly simpler system. The acceptance and utilization of the new kiosks remains to be seen. We need to remain optimistic about the new approach but given the issues with our previous kiosk system we need at a minimum a well-publicized introduction to the new system. I expect there will be problems with the new system and I believe that any and all first tickets should be waived. We need to do all we can to assist downtown merchants.

QUESTION #2: What can be done to make the East Wooster Street entrance to the city more attractive?

In June of 2018, the City of Bowling Green and Bowling Green State University contracted with Development Strategies to create a land development strategy for East Wooster Street. The consultants produced a candid and extremely helpful White Paper regarding the detrimental impact of the state of this essential street and provided suggestions to improve the Wooster corridor. This report speaks to the importance of an initial transformative project. The appropriate Council committee has had a series of meetings to start work on this project, which will be at the corner of Thurstin and Wooster. Additional recommendations include the need to update our zoning code and to establish a more demanding regulatory framework for future development. Zoning revisions in our city should place greater aesthetic demands on future developers. These aesthetic considerations include establishing standards for setbacks, landscaping, signage, and architectural quality and the consistent enforcement of these expectations. The needed improvements on Wooster will require collaboration between the City, BGSU and private developers. I feel the City needs to be the primary agent that will define and execute the necessary revisions to our zoning code. I believe we off to a great start addressing this essential corridor.

QUESTION #3: How can the city ensure that rental housing is safe?

I have long held and voiced the opinion that we need to more aggressively address our rental properties. It is inarguable that we are lagging behind other Ohio college towns in the appearance and safety of our rentals. Many municipalities in Ohio require periodic inspections while other have systems based on self-report

licensing. Unfortunately, the studies of the impact of our barely regulated rentals and the advice of our consultants has not resulted in the implementation of similar systems in our city. I am encouraged by the emphasis being given to safety and neighborhood revitalization by some of the current candidates for City Council. This may add momentum to addressing these issues. I would support the establishment of either a system of inspections or an effective system based on self-reporting with sanctions for those that misrepresent their property. At a minimum, we should implement a Rental Property Registry that requires submitting evidence of electrical and fire inspections before we grant the privilege of renting in Bowling Green.

Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Jill Carr

Address: 832 Hamilton Ct Bowling Green, OH 43402

E-Mail Address: [jcarr2@bgsu.edu](mailto:jcarr2@bgsu.edu)

OCCUPATION: Retired – 40 years experience in Higher Education Administration.



EDUCATION: BA - State University of New York @ Geneseo. MA – Bowling Green State University.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Elected member of Board of Education since 1/1/16. Bowling Green resident since 1975. Former Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students. Extensive civic involvement.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

My initial response is to grade the current safety of our schools as a B. First, we must recognize that the majority of our schools were built at a time when safety threats and issues were not what they are today. Effectively addressing and mitigating life-threatening safety issues requires on-going structural, staffing and policy changes. During the past four years the district has invested significant time and funds to increase and improve the safety of our schools. For example, a safety audit of each school building was completed, the “Boot” was installed on every classroom door, 3M shields were placed on all entry doors and windows, and security cameras were added to all schools inside and outside. Safety training has been implemented for school staff. Our city police have a greater presence in and around our schools. Focusing on mental health issues and increasing our counseling staff are also a high priority. No school district can guarantee that their schools are 100% safe. Our school leaders have made safety a priority and have made significant improvements. There will always be work to do in this area. We are safer now than we were four years ago.

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer.

The education of our children is too important to be left without accountability or assessment. Taxpayers deserve to be provided with a complete view of the achievement of our students and our schools. The problem is that the Ohio Report card provides a singular, one-dimensional view of success based solely on standardized test scores. These scores are then used to “grade” a school district’s success. A successful school or student is determined by more than one measurement. Students are viewed in a multi-dimensional fashion, both curricular and co-curricular. Learning takes place in the classroom, and also outside the classroom, in drama productions, orchestra, choir, athletics, to name a few. Co-curricular activities fuel learning by stimulating creativity, improving social and organizational skills, and developing interests and talents. Socio-economic differences, students identified with special needs, and differing learning styles are not factored in standardized testing, but certainly play a significant role in student and school success. The fact is, the state report card isn’t a complete or accurate measure of our students and our schools’ success. We cannot reduce our students and schools’ success to over-simplified numbers.

QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

Preparation for future employment is an integral component of public education. Our curriculum provides varied opportunities addressing this need. Although college is extremely important to many careers, it’s not for everyone or every career. For that reason, our schools offer learning experiences that prepare students for

wherever they are going in life. Teaching critical thinking skills, encouraging teamwork, and being future - focused are important components of our high school coursework, all needed for career success. Apprenticeship programs, offered by local manufacturing companies, give students an opportunity to work in a business environment while they are going to school. These are paid positions with some offering tuition incentive programs after graduation. Work programs for students identified with special needs have been developed providing skills training geared to employment after graduation. Annually local business people participate in mock interviews with juniors. The partnership with Penta is an exceptional example of opportunities for skill development in areas that can lead to employment after high school or completion of a college degree. Because of the great diversity of our workplace we must offer a range of educational options for students . Our schools are doing this now and will continue to do so.

Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Grant Chamberlain

Address: 13385 Dirlam Rd Bowling Green Ohio 43402

E-Mail Address: Gdchambe@gmail.com

Web Site: <https://www.facebook.com/Grant-Chamberlain-for-School-Board>

OCCUPATION: Construction / Student / Small Business Manager.



EDUCATION: BS in Economics from OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY. Student at Keller Graduate School Masters in Accounting CPA Licensure Program. Graduate of Bowling Green High School.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE. My area of expertise is in finance. I worked in higher education for 7 years.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

There are several aspects of school safety. First, there is the issue of physical safety of the building and environment. I would grade that as good with room to improve. They are structurally sound, reasonably secure, and the outdoor areas and playgrounds are safe and free from hazards. There is still room for improvement. The second issue is that of active safety. I can't speak to the plans currently in place because those are specifically excluded from the public view and open meetings discussion, as they should be. With that being said, active safety or training and planning is often more important than the structural items. Only the board, superintendent, and appropriate authorities are aware of the action plans for these situations. The staff needs to be trained in active shooter situations, trauma care, weather events, bomb threats, conflict mitigation techniques, fire, flood, and any other possible threat. These plans and training need to be evaluated yearly and as need arises. Every event needs analysis and corrective action taken to improve the current plan and future training. When professional assistance is offered in these areas it should be utilized to the fullest extent.

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer

The state report card is only a problem if the administration allows it to be a problem. The state report card system is universal for every public-school district in the state. It's a set of measurable goals those measurements have consequences. A sizeable chunk of state funding is tied to how BGCS performs in those measurable areas. As a board member, I will hear the concerns about the merits of the system and communicate those objections to the statehouse and state board of education. Ultimately, it isn't something we can control locally. I won't allow the state report card to be a talking point and/or an excuse. It is our current system and we have to achieve success within that system. I will accept nothing less. There are schools in NW Ohio that score exceptionally on the state report card, and we do not. This is unacceptable. We have always taken pride in our teachers, our schools, and our children. It would be a shame to see that reputation tarnished. Life is competitive, and there will always be tests and just because one of life's tests is poorly designed, does not serve as an excuse for one to perform poorly.

QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

Preparing students for employment is a complex task. It is something that should be on a case-by-case basis, but grounded in the reality of our current job market. First, employability starts at home. A social and grounded family life makes for solid employees. The school's task, at least at this level, is to prepare young adults for the next step. In today's job market, simply having a high school diploma isn't going to cut it. We have to prepare students for their chosen career path. The trades are begging for employable young adults, but they need training beyond high school. For example, maybe that's partnering with Owens for diesel techs or welding. In addition, Bowling Green High School needs to reach out to more colleges and universities than just BGSU. As a former recruiter for Ohio Wesleyan University, part of my job was to set up high schools to be feeder institutions for our program. It was a difficult task, but when a school was able to tailor their college prep programs to fit the model we needed; those students had a high rate of success.

Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Tracy Hovest



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E-Mail Address: [tracyhovest@yahoo.com](mailto:tracyhovest@yahoo.com)

Web Site: <https://www.facebook.com/hovest.bgschoolboard.5>

OCCUPATION: Educator in Washington Local Schools Toledo, Ohio.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in Education. Master's degree in Education. Certificate in the Teaching of Writing (18 hours beyond master's degree).

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Parent of Bowling Green City School student. Educator with 20 years of experience in grades 7-12 English, speech, journalism, special education inclusion, honors/gifted learners.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

Safety at Bowling Green City Schools is a top priority. With some strong points, but also areas for improvement, I would assign a safety grade of C. Boots for classroom doors, A.L.I.C.E training for staff, cameras, and buzzer entries at each building have been important safety updates in recent years. However, some schools have issues due to the physical structures. For example, Crim Elementary's staggered exterior creates some blind spots, Conneaut's entrance does not have a secure vestibule, Conneaut and Crim's use of modular units creates vulnerable points, the high school's number of entry points needs addressed, and the exposure created by exterior windows in the middle school needs further attention. Additionally, having our schools spread out, rather than on one campus, decreases the number of responders and response time of our police and fire departments in the event of a district-wide emergency. Safety risks also lie in unregulated building temperatures, air quality, and environmental allergens especially in our older buildings. As concerned parents, community members, and professionals, we must look at all of the safety concerns to prioritize and solve as many of these issues for the safety of our children and school personnel.

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer.

The state report card is a problem for Bowling Green Schools in so far as the state is constantly moving the target. Unfortunately, the state changes the rules from year to year, never giving districts an opportunity to hone in on the target. Despite the inadequacies of the state report card, Bowling Green City Schools has made strides to improve. This is indicated in our overall grade of a B, an A in Progress, which is based on student growth compared to past performances, and a B in GAP Closing, showing that the district is meeting the expectations and showing growth in our most vulnerable students due to social and/or economic factors. If any problematic area can be identified, it would be with moving at-risk third graders off Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans. Administration, teachers, and other staff of our district are working to improve and move all students to be on track with reading. It is critical to help at-risk students before they fall behind and disengage from the educational process. This must be a team effort between the district and parents/guardians.

### QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

Bowling Green City Schools should prepare students for future employment by giving them 21st century skills. As a school district, we are helping to create the next inventors, teachers, doctors, lawyers, farmers, tradesmen/women, manufacturers, and other noble occupations, and we need to give them the tools that they will use in this competitive society. Giving students better access to one-to-one technology would be extremely beneficial in preparing students for the workforce where technology is inevitably used, no matter what occupation is entered. Unfortunately, the capabilities of our facilities limit that current access. Giving students facilities that can promote 21st century competitive learning and are comparable to working conditions is imperative. Furthermore, Bowling Green Schools should continue to foster and promote our community relationships and educational opportunities with Bowling Green State University, PENTA, and other community partners to encourage college, trade, and manufacturing jobs. We also need to support students in their social emotional growth with more mental and physical health support so that they can best function in the workforce. With the full support of our schools, community, and parents, our students will be fully ready to be citizens and employees/employers of the future.



Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Ryan Myers

Address: 1538 Muirfield Drive

E-Mail Address: ryanmyers2424@yahoo.com.

OCCUPATION: Supervisor of Special Education, Penta Career Center.



EDUCATION: Bachelor of Education, BGSU; Masters of Educational Administration and Supervision, BGSU; Superintendent License State of Ohio.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Parent of two children in Bowling Green Schools; Special Education Teacher for 5 years; School Administrator for 14 years at an Educational Service Center (ESC) and a Career-Technical Education Center.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

Safety is a huge concern for me for a variety of reasons. When we look at our most vulnerable population of students, we need to look no farther than our elementary students. People think if we keep doors locked that is keeping them safe. While that does offer a surface-level security, there are many holes in our security. Conneaut for example has three modular trailers where students are being educated. Students continually need to go in and out of their trailer and the main building. Other areas of concern regarding safety is air quality, temperature quality during warm weather and visitor check in and check out procedures. Besides the buildings themselves, our students today are dealing with a lot more in terms of family dynamics and mental health. I believe it is imperative that we look at how we are supporting our students in kindergarten through their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer.

Yes and No. We must improve in our “Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers” score. When looking at tracking progress by grade level, only 59.1% of students in the Kindergarten are considered “On Track”. By 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, that percentage jumps up to 61.9%. Being in the education field starting my 20<sup>th</sup> year, literacy is the most important theme in terms of student success across the curriculum. We have to continue to make this a focus for our schools.

I believe Bowling Green Schools has done an admirable job of addressing this in the earlier grades. Having two children in the elementary schools, they are doing many screenings and attacking warning signs students show when there may be a deficit or gap in reading. If we really dive into the root of the problem, I believe we are losing the emphasis of literacy and reading at home. The fact is that families look much different than they did 20 to 30 years ago. Students have a lot more on their plate simply due to family dynamics. The challenge for us as a school system is how to recognize this and develop a plan on how to overcome this challenge.

### QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

Bowling Green is a great place to live and raise a family! We are blessed with opportunities in terms of employment preparation. It is important that we enhance our business relationships with the schools so students have opportunities while in school and transitioning afterwards. We should also look at our partnership with career-technical education, it is important to exhaust all options when getting our students training and experiences. Although career-technical education carries the same stereotypes as they did decades ago unfortunately, they are now preparing students for both college and career readiness.

Our state report card grade of a “D” suggests we need to focus on how our students are “Prepared for Success”. Latest data shows that 69.4% enter college within 2 years. However, after following up on graduates from 2011, only 38.1% of those students graduated from college after checking up on them 6 years later. I want to make sure that we are addressing career exploration as early as middle school with a continued focus as students transition to high school. How can we differentiate educational options and opportunities for our high school students? These are all conversations I intend to have if elected to the school board.

Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Brian Smith

Address: 16890 Mercer rd. Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

E-Mail Address: brian@hussequipment.com

OCCUPATION: Owner of Huss Equipment corp. Designer/Fabricator of material handling equipment & systems.

EDUCATION: High School

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:

Over 18 years old. Registered voter living in the district. High School graduate. Not a Felon. Familiar with *and* intend to abide by Ohio's open meeting/sunshine LAWS. I'm a good listener. I know the meaning of the word NO. In fact, even my dogs only need to be told NO once.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

I would rate the High School a C. For several years I attended a Friday morning discussion group. I always walked in the South-West entrance unchallenged. I would proceed to the office, sign in, and notify Jeff Dever where I was going. Many times however, nobody was in the office. When this was the case, I simply filled out a name tag on my own and proceeded to the classroom where the meeting was held. Point being, there was nothing to deter or even mildly inconvenience someone with bad intent from entering the building. And although the administration was made aware of available 'School Shield' grant funding, they chose to ignore this valuable funding resource. During the previous two levy campaigns we all heard many tales of woe regarding school security. We were told these sleepless nights would be remedied by a consolidated mega-elementary school. Since both levies failed, I must assume these security concerns are yet to be addressed.

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer.

No. Unless they choose to make it one. All schools in the state are graded on the same metrics. In fact, during the first levy attempt, the administration claimed "new buildings would improve our test scores". Now, after two levy defeats and one school falling under Ed-Choice, state report cards are "not a true or fair reflection of our district's performance". Pick one! Hint: There's a school district to our North that literally spent hundreds of millions of dollars for new state of the art buildings. Their state report card???.... F

QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

They shouldn't. Their 'job' isn't to 'produce' employable young adults, that's what college and trade schools are for. BG School's 'job' is to teach students the fundamental skills required to flourish in the real world. Things like Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Science, Language Arts, Social Skills and maybe Critical Thinking! Penta career center does an excellent job 'preparing students for future employment' if that is the path they choose.

Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Ginny Stewart

Address: 1249 Brownwood Drive, Bowling Green, OH 43402

E-Mail Address: ginnystewart1@gmail.com



OCCUPATION: Retired retail business owner. Organizational Development Manager.

EDUCATION: 2 years college. Professional Human Resource Certification.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: Business owner, Organizational Development Manager, 4 year School Board Member, President Wood County Red Cross Board, Vice Chair Behavioral Connections Board, Interfaith Breakfast Committee Member. Affiliations require decision making, budgeting, planning, critical thinking, interpersonal skills.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

Grade- B. The school district is continually upgrading the safety of our schools. Our buildings are as safe as they can possibly be given the age of the buildings. A new Community Elementary School will allow us to design in safety features that are impossible to add to our current aging buildings. Security and Safety Measures taken: Installation of The Boot in all classrooms and office spaces. 3M Safety & Security Film on entry and office windows in all buildings. Ballistic Shields installed on all outside facing windows in the Middle School Cafeteria. Installation of surveillance cameras on the outside and inside of all school buildings with police access in real time. Safety Audit conducted with staff, parents, board members and the police and fire departments. ALICE Training for all staff. School District website with links to our School Safety Tip Line to report Bullying, Suicide, Potential Violence against buildings and occupants.

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer.

For those who do not understand how the schools are graded this can be negative. The report card does not address the whole student experience. By this, I am referring to what we offer beyond core classes. Our district offers, AP courses, College Credit Plus, Extra Curricular and Co-Curricular experiences such as Athletics, Deca, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theatre, Girls Who Code and travel to foreign countries, which is not taken into consideration when grading the schools. The State Report card is only one metric used to evaluate a school district. It is important to note that many of our students receive scholarships and admission into some of the top universities in the country, Penn State, Brown, The Ohio State University, University of Michigan, NYU, The Air Force Academy, MIT to name a few. This too, is not factored into the Report Card. The report card also does not take into account special needs, socio economic standings, ESL students, etc. We compare favorably with the schools in our area and continue to work toward achieving the best results possible.

QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

There are many ways that our district works with students to prepare them for future employment. Every student has the option to attend PENTA to explore and learn a skilled trade. The district yearly hosts Manufacturing Day for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students and select high school students, where they can explore employment opportunities with local manufacturers. We are currently working on an initiative with the Bowling Green Economic Development Organization and local manufacturers identifying students who wish to pursue careers in manufacturing, providing paid internships to our students resulting in employment upon graduation. We have a strong alliance with BGSU offering selected teachers a Teacher In Residence Partnership. This program enhances the knowledge and skillset of an experienced teacher who in turn, shares

what they have learned, which enriches our students learning experience. Our DECA Program prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management which translate to usable skills when seeking employment. The Future Farmers of America Program prepares students for careers in agriculture. Classes are designed to provide real world experiences and teaching critical thinking skills which translate into the outside world upon graduation.

Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Richard Strow

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Web Site: [RichardStrow.com](http://RichardStrow.com)



OCCUPATION: Staff Agronomist and Branch Manager, Ridgeville Elevator.

EDUCATION: Ohio State University Associate Science Degree.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: I am a seven year member of the Board of Directors for the Wood County Health Department, during that term I have served as Finance Committee Chair, Vice President, and President of the Board.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

I would rate the overall safety of our schools, as they are constituted today as being good. However, I have some concerns that need to be studied and considered. Thanks to its construction design the Middle school is the safest of all the buildings due to the limited access points. The current elementary schools provide also a good level of safety primarily due to their smaller population. In a smaller population it is much easier for staff to get to know the students, parents and other caregivers, which becomes critically important when kids are picked up for medical, dental, and other appointments. The smaller population allows the staff to get know the children better over the 6 years of attendance and helps them in noticing signs that something isn't right with a student. The high school continues to have issues and concerns over the security due to the many exits and entrances available to both students and outsiders. Principal Dever highlighted those worries to the public recently. We need to take a serious look into permanently closing some of these entrances, and also installing sensors to monitor the ones in operation.

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer.

The State Report Card presents a mixed picture, some scores are good but others present problems needing to be addressed. The graduation rate of 90%+ is worthy of the A grade until you examine the D grade in the "Prepared for Success" category. Our school seems to be good at granting diplomas but isn't really preparing them to succeed in college and life. But the bigger and much more disturbing problem revealed in the State Report Card is the disappointing situation we have with the K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade reading proficiency. The average student comes into the Kindergarten diagnostic at 59% on track but over the next 4 years of education the number only increases to 62% on track. This may be a big reason that Kenwood elementary was designated an ED Choice school. I believe that this problem is the starting point that leads to the F rating on Indicators Met, with disappointing scores all the way through the rest of elementary, into the middle school, that doesn't improve to satisfactory until the students reach high school. This data clearly seems to indicate we must do a better job in the first four years if we are to see improvement later.

QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

I believe the State Report Card gives a worrisome picture of our student's preparedness for future employment. We need to get away from the mindset that all students must go to college in order to get a good job and succeed. We should adopt a more pragmatic idea of looking at each student individually and help them find the career path that they can be passionate about. Success in life isn't only defined by the prestige of your job title, and how much money you make, but rather by, are you happy? Are you making a difference in your life and the community around you? When you take a closer look at the numbers, you see that only 38% of our students actually are completing a four degree within 6 years of graduating from high school, and only 2.9% achieve industry related credentials in that same time period. Our school need to spend much more time in preparing our students to succeed in all types of careers as well as just life in general. A return to required courses in life skills, civics and time management would go a long way to making better future citizens.

Candidate for: **School Board, Bowling Green City Schools**

Name: Peggy Thompson

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OCCUPATION: local business owner.

EDUCATION: associate degree from Owens Community College. BS and MBA from Heidelberg College.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE: concerned citizen with 9 grandchildren, 7 currently in BG City Schools, grades 2-11 and 2 at BG Christian Academy.

QUESTION #1: How would you grade the safety of the schools and why?

Safety is both physical and emotional. Physically, I feel our schools are safe, after the kids are all settled for the day. I do have some concerns about arrival and dismissal times, especially at the elementary schools. There are a lot of children arriving at one time. A 5<sup>th</sup> grade crossing guard may not be the best first line of defense. Emotionally, I feel that we need to be more diligent with social media. Phones should be out of the kids reach during the classroom instruction times, no matter the grade level. Teachers need to be very vocal about the issues that can arise with improper texting. I don't think kids understand the possible fallout that their current actions may have. Grade C

QUESTION #2: Is the state report card a problem for BG Schools? Explain your answer.

The state report card gives information about each school in the state. It is only a measuring tool. The report may not show accurately the progress that a school is making, nor does it show what challenges that a school is facing. It is something that is reported, but as with any report, all the efforts and progress may not be visible. Additional clarifications may be needed. The Ohio report card website states, "Report cards are only one part of the story. To get a fuller picture, we encourage you to visit schools, talk to educators, parents and students, and review the school's or district's webpage. A lot of great things are happening every day in Ohio's schools!"

QUESTION #3: How should BG Schools prepare students for future employment?

Strong reading and analyzing skills are needed for every student, no matter what employment they are hoping to attain. Students' strengths and weaknesses should also be considered. Allowing all students to explore their interests is a vital part of helping them to become productive citizens. According to BG's districtwide report card, we have a 97.7% graduation rate grade of A, but a prepared for success grade of D. Mentoring is a strong way to impact individual students. Community involvement is crucial. We need business leaders to spend time in the classroom to explain what they expect and require of their employees. Entrepreneurs need to explain what they look for and how they process ideas. We need to start the process by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Goal setting and financial responsibility also need to be part of the learning process. Students need to feel that they have options.



When many of our younger students graduate, they will be working in jobs that do not currently exist. Giving them strong reading and thinking skills will allow them to adapt to whatever jobs are in their future.

We as a community must be willing to give them of our time and talents.