

OHIO JUDGE OF WOOD COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, GENERAL/DOMESTIC

Term Commencing January 1, 2021
 Term of Office: 6 years
 Salary: \$140,550
 Responsibilities: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury, and other departments of the court.

Joel M. Kuhlman
 Occupation: Attorney
 Campaign Email: kuhlman.joel@gmail.com
 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/kuhlman.joel/>

Education: B.S. in bioengineering from The University of Toledo, and J.D. from The University of Toledo

Work Experience: Attorney with Stearns & Hammer in Bowling Green since 2008, Wood County Commissioner from 2012-2017, Bowling Green City Council member from 2010-2012.

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

I have experience representing individuals, businesses, and municipalities in civil, criminal, and administrative matters. I've been fortunate to work with good attorneys to resolve matters outside of court and in other cases gone to trial. I am equally comfortable resolving a case amicably as I am comfortable researching the facts and law of a case and taking it to trial.

I was trained by especially talented attorneys at Stearns & Hammer. They have taught me about the practice of the law and the effects of criminal and civil justice outcomes on our clients – financial stress, mental health, and strained familial relationships.

I have served four municipalities as solicitor and prosecutor, served as special prosecutor in Bowling Green, and serve as general counsel to several local contractors and real estate developers. My experience in both civil and criminal law best qualifies me to be judge.

(Go to www.JudicialVotesCount.org for more Q&A with this candidate.)

Corey James Speweik
 Occupation: Attorney
 Campaign Email: corey@speweik.com

Website: <http://www.speweikforjudge.com>
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Kuhlman



Speweik

Education: BA, Fordham University; Juris Doctor, University of Toledo College of Law

Work Experience: Attorney since 2007, Chief Prosecutor and Solicitor for many municipalities, Mayor's Court Magistrate, Certified Mediator

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

As the chief prosecutor for many municipalities, I have extensive experience prosecuting criminals. But, my experience as a defense attorney also allows me to see issues from both sides. I believe in justice for victims and have served

for many years on the Board of Alicia's Voice, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help domestic violence victims. Additionally, as an experienced litigator, I have extensive practice in family law, complex civil litigation, mediation, and arbitration. As the chief legal officer for many municipalities, I also have experience in drafting legislation, personnel matters, and working with constituents.

Our court's docket last year was comprised of less than 30% criminal cases, with the balance (about 70%) being family law (divorce/dissolution/custody) and other complicated civil matters. Our courts need judges who have broad experience in all of the matters which may come before the court. I have

experience in 100% of the issues which the court of common pleas may hear.

Because Agriculture is one of our county's largest industries, land use and real estate law affects many people. I have done a significant amount of work in these areas. As a former owner of a title company, I am experienced in the issues that affect real estate. When the pipelines came in, I represented clients who had their land taken from them, securing them some of the highest compensation in the state. Being a farmer myself, I understand the issues of drainage and easements; the impact of projects on farms, (Go to www.JudicialVotesCount.org for remainder of response and more Q&A with this candidate.)

OHIO STATE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 3

Term Commencing January 1, 2021

Term of Office: 2 years
 Base Salary: \$60,584

Responsibilities: To represent the people of the district of the State of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

Haraz N. Ghanbari
 Republican
 Occupation: State Representative; United States Naval Officer
 Mailing Address: PO Box 74 Perrysburg, OH 43552

Campaign Email: VoteHaraz@gmail.com
 Website: <http://vote-haraz.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/HarazGhanbari/>

Twitter: twitter.com/HarazGhanbari

Education: Undergrad: Kent State 2004; Naval War College 2016; Master's: University of Toledo 2019

Qualifications: A married father of two, Haraz is serving his first term in the Ohio House of Representatives. He is also a commissioned Naval Officer with nearly two decades of military service.

Question #1: In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?

In almost two decades of military service, including three deployments, I firmly believe there is no other country with a political process such as ours that provides the opportunity for its citizens to have a voice in the political process. Voting is a sacred right for our nation's citizens — one in which



Johnson



Ghanbari

an untold number of patriots have fought to protect. A significant number of the world's 195 countries have constitutions, but there is only one that begins with "We the People..."

I have complete confidence in Secretary of State Frank LaRose and his ability to run a free, fair, and safe election.

Early voting, absentee voting, and in-person election day voting are hallmarks of our political system. We must make sure our Postal Service remains funded to process absentee ballots, we must recruit and train poll workers, and we must have a flexible system that protects the integrity of our elections despite any unforeseen crisis.

Question #2: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

It's interesting that Elbridge Gerry, the Democrat Governor of Massachusetts, signed a law in 1812 to redistrict a Boston district to his party's favor. Mr. Gerry is also one of three who refused to sign our nation's constitution 25 years earlier — that same constitution that begins with "We the People..."

Ohioans adopted two constitutional amendments over the past five years that, if implemented properly, will make congressional and state legislative redistricting fairer and more representative and end gerrymandering. I will work to ensure that the new system delivers in practice on its good potential. In addition, I believe strongly that it

is important to recognize that voters are not just defined by their Party, but also where they live. Different communities have different priorities. Our redistricting system must preserve to the greatest extent possible these communities of interest.

Laurel Johnson
 Democrat
 Occupation: Dispensary Agent
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Campaign Email: laureljohnson419@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.laurelforohio.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JohnsonForStateRep>

Twitter: twitter.com/laurel4stater

Education: BA Communication Studies, Kent State 2017

Qualifications: Interned in Ohio Senate for Edna Brown (D-11) in 2017

Question #1: In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?

I would bring back automatic mailings for absentee ballots and include all prepaid postage. I would also ensure that county Boards of Elections could securely have more than one drop box for voters.

Question #2: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

I would make sure that there was thorough oversight to the redistricting process, ensuring any redrawn district is fair and ensure townhalls are held in districts before being finalized by the legislature.

OHIO STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2

Term Commencing January 1, 2021

Term of Office: 4 years
 Base Salary: \$60,584

Responsibilities: To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

Theresa Gavarone
 Republican
 Occupation: State Senator, Attorney, Small Business Owner
 Mailing Address: PO Box 1036 Perrysburg, OH 43551

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Twitter: twitter.com/theresagavarone

Education: BSBA-Bowling Green State University JD- Toledo University College of Law

Qualifications: *State Senator for Ohio's 2nd Senate District *Previous member of Ohio House (2016-2019) *Previous member of BG City Council *Attorney *Small Business Owner (Mr. Spots)

Question #1: In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?

Ohio is one of the leading states in the country when it comes to voting accessibility. We allow nearly an entire month of early in-person voting and voters could have requested an absentee ballot for November's election dating all the way back to January 1. If you are a registered voter in Ohio, you have plenty of time and options to cast your ballot.

However, I've taken the lead on fixing an



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elections problem that became glaring due to the COVID-19 pandemic—requesting an absentee ballot online. I sponsored Senate Bill 191 to modernize the absentee ballot request process. This bipartisan bill would allow Ohioans to request their ballot through a secure, online system instead of the outdated and confusing process in current law.

That work led to me receiving the 'Legislator of the Year' award by the bipartisan Ohio Association of Elections Officials.

Question #2: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

It's important that the voices of all Ohioans are heard in elections. Gerrymandering defeats that purpose and I vehemently oppose it.

The district I represent is an example of one that is not gerrymandered. It contains some or all of Erie, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa and Wood Counties and I pride myself on how diverse it is. In fact, Barack Obama won my district in 2008 and 2012 by thousands of votes.

Taking into account the differing viewpoints of many tens of thousands of constituents has made me a better legislator and is one of the reasons I won by 18 and 24 points respectively in my elections for the Ohio House in a swing county (Wood) with a diverse electorate.

But I don't just talk about how I dislike gerrymandering, I act on it. In 2018, when I was a member of the House, I co-sponsored Senate Joint Resolution 5, which was legislation to create a bipartisan process for drawing Ohio's congressional lines. That was

sent to the voters for approval and it passed nearly 75-25.

Joel O'Dorisio
 Democrat
 Occupation: Teaching Professor

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Facebook: <http://Joel4ohio>

Twitter: twitter.com/joel4ohio

Education: BFA, The Ohio State University MFA, Alfred University SUNY

Qualifications: Union Leader for 10 years, Contract negotiator, Member of the Executive Committee. I have also been a small business owner. Vice chair and then chair of Faculty senate.

Question #1: In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?

5 states are all vote by mail right now. Vote by mail would ensure that everyone has an opportunity to make an informed decision and will not miss work in order to exercise the right to vote. Further, I would like to make registration automatic at the age of 18.

Question #2: What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

I support the "American Promise." I will encourage the passage of a constitutional amendment that restricts unlimited corporate money, and dark money. I would like to ban foreign corporate money from domestic elections. I will further support legislation to have neutral, non-partisan redistricting processes that fairly represent voters rather than incumbent politicians.

MORE VOTING INFORMATION ONLINE

Learn more about candidates and issues:

www.JudicialVotesCount.org

www.Vote411.org