

WOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Term Commencing January 3, 2021

Term of Office: 4 years
Salary: \$72,346

Responsibilities: To exercise financial control of County expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to let contracts; to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments.

Ted Bowlus
Republican

Occupation: Wood County Commissioner
Mailing Address: 14921 Silverwood Rd Pemberville, OH 43450

Campaign Email: commissioner.ted.bowlus@gmail.com

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

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

Twitter: twitter.com/drtedbowlus

Education: B.S. in PreMed; Doctor of Podiatric Medicine; Masters Degree in Neuroscience/Anatomy

Qualifications: Wood Co. Commissioner (elected 2016); Eastwood School Bd (2 terms); Past Pres. Wood Co. Bd of Health; Behavioral Connections and NAMI Boards; Perrysburg Businessman over 30 yrs.

Question #1: What,

if anything, would you change about Wood County's disaster preparedness plans and Health Department policies and operations regarding the response to the ongoing pandemic and future health crises?

Wood County's Health Department and Emergency Management Agency handled the moving target of the COVID-19 pandemic well, considering that the virus was previously unknown and highly contagious. However, the lengthy shut-down of churches, schools, public meetings and businesses has taken a toll on the psychological, educational, economic and social health of our citizens. To avoid or mitigate some or all of these consequences going forward, I am helping to form a "Focus on the Future Committee." This group will analyze information gathered from the current pandemic and propose a plan before another crisis can occur. Among other objectives, the group will focus on gathering detailed statistics, stockpiling protective equipment, finding ways to recognize and identify new problems, and timely testing and evidence-based treatment. This way, health officials can quickly educate the public of ways to respond. For more

information, see my website at: www.CommissionerTedBowlus.com.

Question #2: What priorities will you consider when making county budget decisions in anticipation of reductions in tax revenue due to the economic effects of COVID-19?

The County budget is monitored closely and discussed frequently. Budget decisions are made by considering our departments' and agencies' "wants" as compared to "needs." Record-breaking sales tax revenue was collected up to April 2020, and a rebound in sales tax revenue began in June. Nevertheless, with the onset of the pandemic we asked county agencies and departments to spend money only on "urgent needs." For example, the Jail renovation was temporarily suspended. Our priorities are working with the County Engineer on roads, bridges and drainage; economic development; job creation; keeping citizens and staff safe while conducting business in the County; and providing essential services to our citizens. Also, we have received federal funds that are distributed through the



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states to county governments, which includes the C.A.R.E.S. Act, allowing us to give financial help to

local small businesses and county departments. Our financial outlook remains optimistic despite COVID-19.

Bruce Jeffers
Democrat

Occupation: Math Teacher (retired)

Mailing Address: 150 Meeker St Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Campaign Email: brucejeffers58@gmail.com

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

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

Education: BA Religion and Math, Grand Rapids Baptist College. MA Sociology, University of Toledo

Qualifications: 8 years on Bowling Green City Council. 35 years of educating young adults. 30 years of bargaining contracts for teachers. A lifetime in the field of horticulture.

Question #1: What, if anything, would you change about Wood County's disaster preparedness plans and Health Department

policies and operations regarding the response to the ongoing pandemic and future health crises?

Our Health Dept. and EMA preparedness plans are sound, but we need elected officials that will lead by example, not say one thing and do another. Last spring Gov. DeWine and the Wood County Health Dept. were recommending social distancing and mask wearing so we could reopen businesses and schools as soon as safely possible. We were "all in this together." Meanwhile, my opponent was participating in a large rally where attendees were demanding we immediately reopen schools and force working families back into unsafe work environments. He also pushed for the opening of swimming pools against the advice of city and village leaders. At the same time, his own office remained closed to face-to-face meetings for several weeks. This type of mixed messaging from the top helped ensure the first wave of this virus never ended in America (making us unique among the nations of the world). That's negatively impacted our health, our small businesses and our working families.

Question #2: What

priorities will you consider when making county budget decisions in anticipation of reductions in tax revenue due to the economic effects of COVID-19?

One outcome of the pandemic has been the huge reduction in our non-violent jail population, which was roughly 50% of the 165 inmate average as of June. This tells me we should reevaluate our position as a for-profit prison county. Why are Wood County taxpayers paying to house Cuyahoga County inmates? At the same time, 74% of our roads are rated "marginal," "poor," or "serious" and 52 bridges in our county are rated "poor or worse." Should we be spending tens of millions of dollars to house a few dozen additional prisoners from other areas of the state, or should we be maintaining our critical infrastructure here at home? A main priority of mine is protecting vulnerable members of our community. I've had the unfortunate opportunity to witness poverty first hand through my work as a board member at The Brown Bag Food Project. Our county JFS and Health Department need continued support for their roles in helping with basic services to combat this problem.

WOOD COUNTY RECORDER

Term Commencing January 4, 2021

Term of Office: 4 years

Salary: \$63,098

Responsibilities: To Record deeds, mortgages, plats, liens, and other written instruments.

Julie Baumgardner

Democrat

Occupation: Wood County Recorder

Mailing Address: 22048 Portage Rd Weston, OH 43569

Campaign Email: jmbaumg@aol.com
Education: Bowling Green High School, University of Toledo, Associates in Computer Programming

Qualifications: 12 years as the Recorder, 6 years as a Deputy Recorder, 11 years as a computer programmer

Question #1: What would you do to encourage/implement more online access for Wood County residents in records activity? Do you think this is necessary?

I would finish back scanning the office's documents and continue to work on the indexing of those documents so searches could be completed back to 1820 online. While I think it is necessary to get the index to the records online I am more cautious about putting the images of those records online because many of the records have personal information, social security numbers, addresses, etc., on them. With the circumstances we are facing today I believe it is very important that online index access is available since it gives everyone the ability to search and find records. In the near future I think it may become necessary to put the actual document image online but not before the personal information found on documents is protected. As a member of the Legislative and Executive Committees of the Ohio Record-



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ers' Association I will continue to work on getting laws passed that protect that personal information while still allowing the images to be available online.

Question #2: How will you evaluate data management security and emergency preparedness regarding records, documents, and technology? How will you act upon the evaluation results?

Every year I talk with my IT vendor and we go over what new security features have been created and if and when those security features should be implemented. I also sit on the Data Processing board for the county and we have regular meetings with the county's IT director to review new hardware and software that will help protect the county's data. Every few years I review the office's disaster recovery plan to make sure it is still up to date. The last review was done under the direction of the county's Emergency Management Agency. During those reviews updates to how and where records are stored, what services are going to be needed, vendors contract information, and also how the recovery will be implemented is updated and changed as necessary.

James Matuszak
Republican

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant
Mailing Address: 1000 Sandusky St. Perrysburg, OH 43551

Campaign Email: jim.matuszak@reagan.com
Education: Bachelor of Business Administration Masters of Taxation

Qualifications: Solid reputation with the business & legal communities; proven, trusted business, financial & tax advisor; history of community involvement (currently a Perrysburg City Councilman)

Question #1: What would you do to encour-

age/implement more online access for Wood County residents in records activity? Do you think this is necessary?

It is no secret that more and more business is being done online. Whether it is necessary to encourage/implement more online access depends on the current and evolving needs of those the Recorder's Office serves. Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge and distinguish the difference between encouraging more online access and mandating online access. My experience has shown that interruptions with online activities can, depending on the circumstances, bring business to a halt. Interruptions to online activity will continue to occur. I will promote more online access, but not without a backup plan in place to provide uninterrupted service to Wood County residents in the event online access is interrupted.

The best way to encourage more online access is to make it as user-friendly as possible. If online access to the Recorder's Office is easy, dependable, efficient and reliable, and is supplemented with the proper amount of support from the office, usage will increase.

Question #2: How will you evaluate data management security and emergency preparedness regarding records, documents, and technology? How will you act upon the evaluation results?

There are professionals that make a living evaluating data management security and emergency preparedness regarding records, documents and technology. As the County Recorder, the offices annual budget will include sufficient funding to protect the integrity of the records, documents and technology entrusted to the office. The Recorder's Office, and more specifically, the

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WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF

Term Commencing January 4, 2021

Term of Office: 4 years

Salary: \$102,737

Responsibilities: To provide services to the courts, to oversee the county jail, and to act as chief law enforcement officer for the county.

Ruth Babel-Smith

Democrat

Occupation: Retired Deputy Sheriff/Adjunct Instructor, Owens Community College

Mailing Address: 628 South Main Street Bowling Green, OH 43402

Campaign Email: babel.smith@yahoo.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Babel-Smith-for-Wood-County-Sheriff-101983078298281>

Education: Doctoral candidate BGSU; Masters in Criminal Justice Tiffin Univ; Bachelor Fine Art BGSU

Qualifications: Commander, Ohio Basic Peace Officer Training Commission; Instructor, Ohio Basic Peace Officer Training Commission; Police Executive Leadership College; Lake Twp. PD Auxiliary

Question #1: With current concerns about abuse of power by law enforcement officers, what actions will you take to ensure your officers follow established procedures and protocols when dealing with a diverse public?

Meet with community action groups and other policing agencies in Wood County to discover and address areas of needed attention. The State of Ohio provides extensive training on community diversity and procedural justice. Additional training will be sought through professional partnerships with other agencies. Policies and procedures regarding the use of force will be reviewed, revised if needed, and



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posted to the WCSO website for any citizen to see. Body cameras will continue to be used and turned on when interacting with citizens and will be reviewed in the event of complaints. All incidents/complaints involving use of force will be documented and investigated. Officers suspected of wrongful use of force will be subject to internal investigation, disciplinary action, possible criminal charges and/or termination. When appropriate, prompt media releases and updates will be made to the public regarding these events to maintain transparency.

Question #2: What are the top two issues facing the Wood County Jail and how will you address them?

1.) Re-evaluate the jail expansion. The suggested order of renovation was: 1.) Booking area. 2.) Medical area. 3.) Add inmate housing. Further expansion was to be planned in a cost-effective manner. Instead, the desire to try to make money by leasing space to other agencies became the priority. This resulted in housing destructive prisoners and spending huge amounts of money to repair damages. If the project had been followed as suggested, the cost the tax payers would not have been so high. The project needs to be re-evaluated and compared to the goals of the project before spending more money. 2.) Officer safety. The jail staff is overworked, adding to Covid susceptibility, absenteeism, injury, PTSD, & personal issues. The volatile environment increases the risk to all in the jail. Working with the County Administrator, the deputies' union, and state inspectors, I would like to review staffing

needs and enact proper changes to ensure the safety of the staff, visitors, and inmates.

Mark Wasylshyn
Republican

Occupation: Sheriff
Mailing Address: 21630 Carter Rd. Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Campaign Email: wasyl@wcnnet.org

Website: <http://markforsheriff.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Government-Official/Mark-Wasylshyn-for-Sheriff-Wood-County-Ohio-101075908355038>

Education: Rossford High School 1979 Hillsdale College B.A. 1983

Qualifications: Sheriff since 01-2005 Board of Directors, Executive Committee National Sheriff's Association 2012-present Buckeye State Sheriff's Assoc. President 2017 Perrysburg Police 1990-2005

Question #1: With current concerns about abuse of power by law enforcement officers, what actions will you take to ensure your officers follow established procedures and protocols when dealing with a diverse public?

We start by hiring deputies with servant mentality. Deputies must be well trained. We exceed and have exceeded all training requirements. We train de-escalation and critical incident training for people with mental health issues. We are on the list as fully compliant with Ohio Collaborative. We use Lexipol for online policy and procedures that has regular reviews and quizzes of our policies.

Transparency and accountability are vital. WCSO is the first in the region to have body cameras. We have had body cameras for seven years and dash cameras in our vehicles since about 2006. We regularly and randomly review both body cameras and dash cameras. Our jail has 130 cameras and

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