

True Blue

The Adams County Democrat
Election Issue 2020

Evil Flourishes Where Good Men Do Nothing

There is little doubt America seems to be choosing Joe Biden to win the presidency in November. This makes my heart happy but concerns me about the price to be paid for what we have tolerated for years – both nationally and locally. On a broad scale, history has shown us what happens when life catches up to a malignant paradigm. Individuals unravel. Hateful defenses increase. Some resort to drugs, to suicide – some try to take the whole world down with them. A people, a community, such as ours, that has tolerated injustice for years, that has persistently refused to diversify in multiple areas, find themselves facing a time of transition comparable to the transition from the Dark/Middle Ages to the Age of Industrialization, Science and Technology. While we agonize over the political implications of wearing masks and increased discomfort in the presence of one another, Adams County walks a financial tightrope with 1/3 less revenue and reduced capacity to keep up with basic community necessities, such as policing. We are far from being ahead of the curve being delivered by Corona. After initially downplaying the danger of COVID-19, our Health Department now officially stands behind an underestimated number of virus-related deaths - while obituaries have doubled and tripled since winter. We are on the brink of more than an election. We are, collectively, moving from one historical age to another. “Normal” is being redefined. We will not simply be “getting back to

normal”. All of our old assumptions – and the behaviors we took for granted - are falling away. “Normal” is being re-forged. Some see horrendous pitfalls as well as wondrous opportunities ahead.

We have tolerated tensions between political parties in Adams County for a very long time. When I first moved here I wanted a yard sign during the Kerry campaign and went to the Board of Elections to ask where Democratic headquarters was. I went into the wrong office and the two women behind a counter looked at me with contempt. I was a “sub-person” to them and they managed to get it across to me without speaking a word. Since then I’ve known many Dems who think we keep the peace by refusing to confront political prejudice. Now, however, it’s reached a new octave. Now we are in free-fall through Alice’s looking glass. This first became viscerally clear to me last autumn. I turned onto a road ½ mile from the center of town and misjudged how fast a car heading toward me was speeding. The car raced by me and in my rear-view mirror, I saw it make a screeching cops-and-robbers 180-degree turn and follow me into town. I pulled into the Marathon Station and the car pulled up next to me. The window lowered. The car was black and the driver was dressed in black with a black scarf on this head and sunglasses. He was slender



clip and save ✂ -----

Sample Democrat Ballot, Election November 3, 2020		
X	Joseph R. Biden & Kamala Harris	President & Vice President
X	Jennifer Brunner	Justice, Ohio Supreme Court
X	John P. O'Donnell	Justice, Ohio Supreme Court
X	Stacy Brooks	Judge, 4th District Court of Appeals
X	Jaime Castle	Representative to Congress (2nd District)
X	Ryan Ottney	Ohio Senate (14th District)
X	Mark Tolle	County Recorder
X	Mary Binegar	State Board of Education

and appeared to be young enough to be in high school. He snarled and accused me of cutting him off. I told him I know I did, and I didn't mean to and that I was sorry - but that I hadn't realized how fast he was going. It escalated. He said it was my fault - that I nearly made him crash. I said it was his fault, too, because he was going about 70mph in a 25 mph zone. Then he said, with extraordinary contempt in his voice: "You're a Liberal, aren't you?" I asked him what he was talking about. He said, "You're a Liberal, you talk like a Liberal." This continued until I told him he was trying to threaten me and I was writing down his license number. He took off. It felt like an omen - and it was. One thing was clarified for me at that time: being a liberal means we are

to keep us indoors so we won't see them "change the batteries in the birds". On a nationwide scale, a group called "Q-Anon" (think Tea Party out of the closet, psychotic, and on steroids) has over a million people interacting on Facebook. They believe that Democrats, along with "Hollywood Elites" and Jews, traffic children and eat human flesh. They believe Trump is on to this and his tweets - filled with misspellings and capitalizations - are really hidden messages telling his followers he will soon round us up and send us to Guantanamo for execution. They hope to speed up his agenda by instigating violence during peaceful demonstrations.

This madness is not without meaning. With the increased speed of data moving through the internet and increased use of virtual communication platforms, such as Zoom, anxiety is increasing. Many of us are getting hints of the mind-blowing changes in store for us. I think it is critical for us in Adams County Ohio - along with our counterparts in other places, rural and urban - to ask ourselves: How have we contributed to this madness? How do we feed it, support it - every day? Why have we repeatedly failed to speak up before it got so out of control? Over the last few years, some people have told me they are afraid to be associated with a number of themes I've raised in letters to the editor in the Defender - not because they disagree with me, but because they don't want others "to know" their names or what they think. Most of those who have called me are unable to articulate what it is they are so afraid of. The phone calls have stopped because I don't have a landline anymore - but those conflicted people (our neighbors, known and unknown) are still out there - each feeling alone. And we, Democrats, have failed to rise to meet this crisis because we, too, are afraid

and have opted out. Years ago I was told by a fellow Democrat: "You people from New York don't know the trouble you can stir up around here." Message: "keep a low profile or you'll make things worse - you'll make MY life worse."

This timid life-view disempowers us for what's ahead. A few weeks ago a man bush hogged my field after I ignored it for 3 years. It took longer than a day and when I paid him he said (out of the blue and in all humility) there was no way a machine could be made to do what he did. What struck me about the conversation wasn't his conclusion - but the fact he was THINKING about it - about computerized machines replacing us. And I know he - along with the rest of us - never thought we would get to witness this rapid transition into a new historical age. The definitions of life and work are being rewritten. Corona has speeded up our increasing reliance on virtual money, work, communications, medical services, leisure activity, and education. Artificial Intelligence/virtual reality is ramping up to run the show. Mankind sees



both responsible - and liberal-haters find responsibility intolerable.

Then came COVID-19 - and contempt has moved into a higher gear. I have many local examples. Here are a few. (1) My friend, wearing her mask, got out of her car to pick up medicine for her dog at Dr. Bailey's. A man pulled off the road, got out of his car, and accosted her: "Why are you wearing a mask? Are you a member of ANTIFA?" She told me the shock made her think of my "man-in-black". (2) A nurse working in a nursing home told me there really is no pandemic. She said COVID was a lie invented to keep people out of church so they forget God. (3) A local builder told me children are being kidnapped and tortured to make their glands produce a substance that is used as medicine to keep a cabal of certain evil men in power. (4) I was told by a cashier in a local business that "we're being watched all the time" - that some birds are really drones - especially the ones that hit windows. She said COVID-19 was invented

itself on the brink of becoming superfluous – unnecessary – to life on Planet Earth.

Love radiates out from Joe Biden’s spirit in his warmth and sincerity. And unflinching courage seems to radiate from Kamala Harris. These two may be the very models we need at this critical time. But models are wasted if we fail to tap those qualities in ourselves. The WHOLE of love, its active as well as its passive side, is necessary. Passively loving our neighbor to avoid stirring up trouble will not get us through what’s ahead. A rapid transition from one historical age to

another is upon us. It’s more than a revolution in politics, economics, and healthcare that’s ahead. It’s a revolution in the very nature of life and work on planet earth. Human life is being recalibrated. We need to support one another to weather the fact that life will not be going back to “normal”. We need courage to stand firm in a world run by Artificial Intelligence – a world that is rewriting the meaning of human life on planet earth. A wise Adams County Democrat once said to me: “How are we going to grow the Party if we don’t grow a heart?” She meant more than a warm and all-inclusive heart. She also meant courage - the heart of a LION. ❖

Is It Fake News or Not? Here Are Some Tools to Help Us Get the Straight Scoop!

We live in an era when fake news is real and troubling. Half-truths and outright lies run rampant from many politicians and on social media platforms. Such propaganda is released to purposely mislead and manipulate the voting public. As citizens, we often must wade through the weeds to separate fact from fiction and to just get to the truth. Here are some internet resources to help folks determine whether claims and accusations in the news are true or false.

[FactCheck.org](https://www.factcheck.org/)

This nonpartisan, nonprofit organization monitors the veracity of what is said by politicians, TV ads, debates, interviews, news releases, etc.

[MediaMatters.org](https://www.mediamatters.org/)

This nonprofit research center, which describes itself as liberal-leaning, monitors and corrects misinformation in the media.

[OpenSecrets.org](https://www.opensecrets.org/)

This nonpartisan and nonprofit website, run by the Center for Responsive Politics, tracks how much and from where politicians get their campaign funds.

[PolitiFact.com](https://www.politifact.com/)

This Pulitzer Prize-winning website rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials. It features the Truth-O-Meter, which rates information as “True,” “Mostly True,” “Half

True,” “False,” and “Pants on Fire.”

[ProPublica.org](https://www.propublica.org/)

This independent, nonprofit newsroom has won several Pulitzer Prizes. ProPublica produces investigative journalism in the public interest.

[Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com/)

This nonpartisan website researches urban legends and other rumors. It is often the first to set the record straight on news claims that seem wild and far-fetched.

[Sunlightfoundation.com](https://www.sunlightfoundation.com/)

This nonpartisan, nonprofit organization uses public policy data-based journalism to make politics more transparent and accountable.

[Washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/)

This is the Washington Post's fact check feature. Although the publication has a left-center bias, its fact checks are excellent and well-referenced.

These are just some of the websites which have emerged over the past decade to promote truth and transparency in our politics. Because fake news is real, and dishonesty and corruption are all too common, it takes time and effort to get the straight scoop. Fortunately, the above types of tools are now available to help us be well-informed voters. ❖

Ohio Supreme Court: An Important Opportunity

As recent as the year 2018, the Republican Party controlled all seven seats on the Ohio Supreme Court. The election of Justice Melody Stewart and Justice Michael Donnelly enabled the Democratic Party to gain two seats on the court. This November of 2020, we have the opportunity to elect Judge Jennifer Brunner and Judge John O'Donnell and enable the Democratic Party to



hold four seats of the seven seats on the court. A Majority! Democrats have not held a majority on the Ohio Supreme Court in over a generation. They also have not controlled any of the three state branches of government in Columbus in over a decade. The opportunity is there, so please give every attention to the Judicial candidates on the ballot this year. ❖

Information on Adams County Democratic Party Headquarters

The local Democratic Party will have headquarters at 117 W. Main Street, West Union in the building known as Locals. It is directly across from the Courthouse and convenient to the Board of Elections. We will have campaign literature and yard signs, voter registration forms, and absentee ballot request forms. During early absentee voting beginning

October 6th through Election Day November 3rd, you may call our headquarters at 937-752-6606 to arrange a ride to the polls or for assistance in the delivery of your absentee ballot. If you have questions prior to the headquarters' opening, phone messages are checked and responded to regularly. If you want to help staff headquarters, please call. ❖

GOP Politics as Usual?

I see lots of misinformation and outright lies posted on social media. I have seen posts "shared" by folks where it appeared they simply looked at the sensational headline and didn't take time to read the article. Is this intentional and meant to mislead, or are some folks just too lazy to read the entire article, or heaven forbid, actually fact check and research to see if it is true? Regardless of the intent, the effect can confuse and spread false or misinformation.

One "meme" circulating shows a chart with two headings side by side labeled Democratic and Republican with the most extreme and exaggerated positions listed under Democratic. Of course, under the Republican side, the position stated appears either more reasonable or, in some cases, plays on prejudices and fear. I want to examine further one of those items. According to the "meme", Democrats are for BIG Government, and Republicans are for LIMITED Government. Really?

What do they mean by limited? Limited to serving the haves or the top 10%? Or do they mean limited to serving themselves and their families? Here's an example at the national level. Look at Mitch McConnell, a man who has spent his career on the public payroll. He is now wealthy. Is that due to sound investments of his public salary, or due to gifts from his Chinese in-laws? His 2nd wife, Elaine Chao, is currently Secretary of Transportation and on the public payroll too.

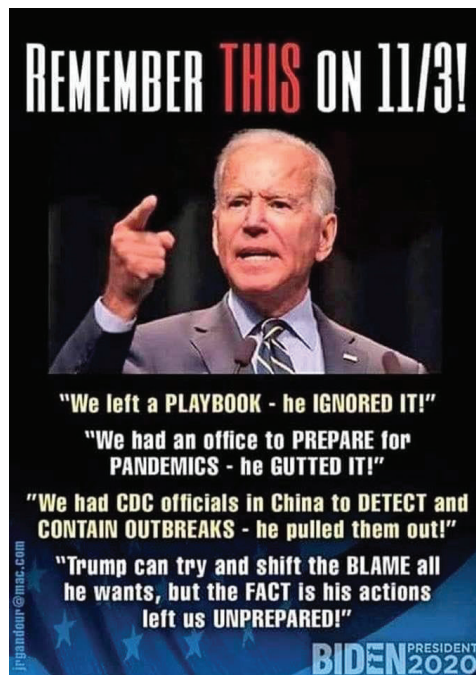
Recent headlines and FBI investigations show that corruption is rampant in Ohio's GOP. In 2016, the local GOP chose to appoint a sitting Commissioner, Brian Baldrige, to run for an open seat. Was this illegal? No, but a maneuver that allowed Mr. Baldrige to pocket a hefty pay raise and then run for State Representative in two years from a protected position. In 2018, Mr. Baldrige ran in the Republican Primary and, he was supported financially by what has been referred to as "Team Householder." He was elected, and yes, he voted for HB6 to bail out a couple of nuclear

power plants. This bailout didn't help the Stewart or Killen power plants in Adams County. What did his constituents get out of this deal? Nothing. However, his wife, who had been employed by the corrupt and now-defunct Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), now has a state job with the Secretary of State's office as Field Liaison for Southeast Ohio. Ah, two in the family on the public payroll. The sponsor of HB6 was Shane Wilkin, and recently, his wife, Kristy, was appointed Judge 4th Court of Appeals. Another twofer and beneficiary of Team Householder!

Speaking of Team Householder, I want to know if the corruption and influence are limited to members of the legislature who helped pass HB6 and elect Mr. Householder as Speaker, or did this money and influence reach further? We certainly know from campaign finance reports who received campaign contributions from Team Householder. Do we know who else benefited or if money was given to individuals personally? 60 million dollars is a lot of money, and it would be interesting to know where every dollar went. The Treasurer of the Adams County Republican Central Committee, Stephen Caraway, was affiliated with Mr. Householder as his Candidate Recruiter & Campaign Advisor. As such, perhaps he could shed some light on where the money went or where it is still going.

Chris Moore is the Republican running for Recorder. Robert Newman is running for Coroner as an Independent but has a solid Republican voting record. Now, look at some other Republicans on the public payroll in the County Courthouse. You will see Barbara Moore is one of the County Commissioners, and I understand Chris Moore is her nephew. You will also see that Lisa Newman is the County Treasurer and Robert Newman is her brother-in-law.

Thinking back to the "meme" that has been shared widely, in my opinion, what the local GOP means by limited is clear. They want to limit county officials to a few families! It reminds me of hogs at the trough. ❖



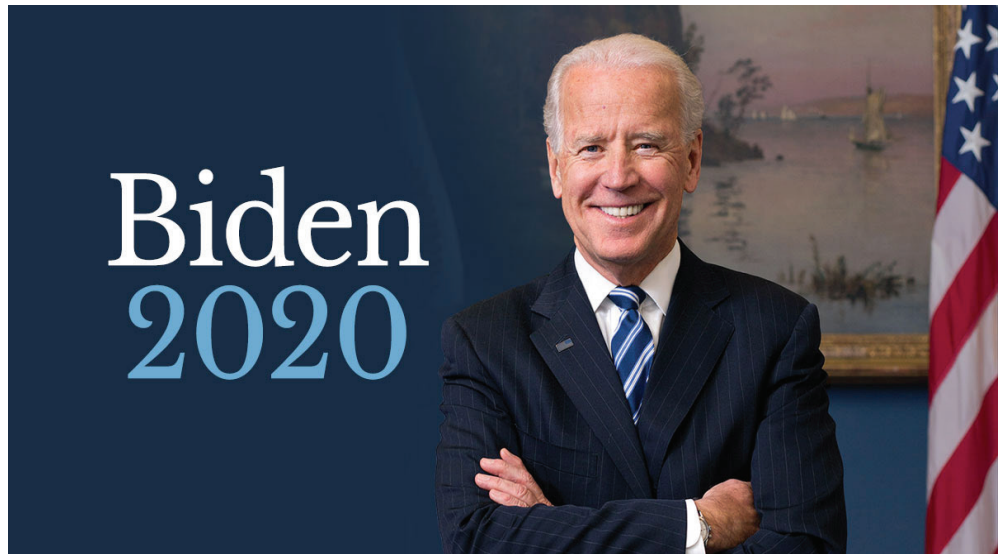
Joe Biden Will Bring Back a Trait Lacking in the White House... Empathy.

Residents of Adams County, Ohio, know what it's like to work hard day in and day out and still struggle to get ahead. We have seen jobs disappear, and poverty rise. According to a report in the Highland County Press and data from the U.S Census Bureau; Adams County is the poorest of Ohio's 88 counties with a median income of \$36,320, a poverty rate of 23.8%, an unemployment rate of 6.5%, and the population decreased by 2.1%. These staggering numbers are from before the CoVid Pandemic struck. There is only one candidate for President that can empathize with Adams County's families; that candidate is Joseph R. Biden.

Joe Biden was born in the blue-collar city of Scranton, PA and was the son of a father who had suffered many financial setbacks. For several years, his family lived with grandparents, and when it was clear that Scranton was not going to have an economic recovery, the family moved to Delaware. Joe Biden often recalls the story of when his father informed him that he needed "to be strong" because he had once again lost his job. Joe knows what it is like for families to struggle and to be one paycheck away from losing everything. While Vice President, he was in charge of oversight for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and brought the United States out of the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression. He has empathy for low income and working-class families.

According to the Domestic Violence Report from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, domestic violence in Adams County has risen 15.2%, with 125 incidents reported in 2018.

On June 20, 1990, Joe Biden introduced the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It was a broad, sweeping piece of legislation that changed the way our country responds to domestic violence and sexual assault. After its passage, the country saw a reduction of domestic violence by 50%. However, a bill reauthorizing the VAWA has now stalled in the U.S. Senate. While Vice President: Joe Biden launched the 1is2Many initiative to reduce dating violence and sexual assault among students, teens, and young adults. Joe Biden has empa-



thy for victims of domestic violence.

CoVid19 deaths have surpassed 185,000 in just a few short months, and thousands of families are mourning for their fallen loved ones. Adams County has also seen their lives turned upside down from this Pandemic. Joe Biden is no stranger to a family tragedy, the importance of affordable health care, and fighting a pandemic.

A few short weeks after a young Joe Biden won his election to the Senate in 1972, his wife Neilia and their one-year-old daughter Naomi were killed in a car accident while Christmas shopping. Their sons, Hunter and Beau, were also in the vehicle and survived. In 2015 his son Beau, who had served in Iraq and as Delaware Attorney General, died after a two year battle with brain cancer. Despite these horrible personal tragedies, Joe Biden continued to serve his country.

While Vice President, he fought for the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act , removing pre-existing condition clauses and expanded health care coverage to millions of Americans.

With President Obama, the administration was able to stave off several outbreaks, including H1N1, Zika, and Ebola. Together they created a global health security team and left future administrations with a 69 page National Security Council guidebook on fighting emerging disease threats. Joe Biden has empathy for the families mourning the death of their family and friends.

With so many suffering the loss of jobs, safety, and loved ones, we need a leader in the White House that has knowledge, compassion, and empathy for all. That leader is Joe Biden. ❖

Brunner for Judge

Who knows what issues the Ohio Supreme Court will be asked to rule in 2021 and beyond. Scandal, such as the First Energy debacle? Issues of liberty, such as laws and orders to wear masks and avoid our acquaintances? Constitutional questions such as whether an erstwhile Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives can be removed from office by the House after being charged with or convicted of a serious felony? We can only know for sure that our Justices will need to be the most capable of people.

Jennifer Brunner qualifies for this position by virtue of her judicial experience: about five years' service as a Common Pleas Judge followed more recently with five years as a State appellate Judge. You can look it up, as Yogi Berra said.



Jennifer Brunner qualifies for special talents by virtue of her prior service as Secretary of State, where she successfully ran 4 years' worth of Ohio elections. You can once again follow Yogi's advice and look it up.

Lastly, Jennifer Brunner qualifies by her intelligence, ability to adeptly analyze complex problems, her ability to robustly relate to all sorts of people in the service of getting things done, and her overall affability. And you don't need to look this one up. I can vouch for this part from my own experience in working with her.

Jennifer Brunner is the real deal. Do me a favor. Do yourself a favor. Do Ohio a favor. Vote for Jennifer Brunner. ❖

Judge John O'Donnell will be an Independent Voice On the Ohio Supreme Court.

Judge John O'Donnell has impressive credentials for this position. John O'Donnell currently serves on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. He was first elected in 2002. The Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas is one of Ohio's busiest Courts. Judge O'Donnell has presided over scores of jury trials in felony criminal and civil lawsuits and has handled specialized dockets for felony defendants with serious mental illnesses. In 2008, he was one of eight trial court judges in the state-appointed by the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court to preside over a commercial docket devoted



ed strictly to business litigation. He has been responsible for over 2,000 commercial cases. He has authored over one hundred judicial opinions. He has consistently been rated as "Excellent" in rankings decided by local bar associations.

John graduated from Cleveland Marshall College of Law and Miami University. He has served on the boards of several Northeast Ohio non-profit organizations. He lives in Lakewood with his family.

Judge John O'Donnell will be an independent voice on the Ohio Supreme Court. ❖

Stacy Brooks for Judge 4 th Court of Appeals

I have spent my entire career practicing law in southeastern and southern Ohio -- representing the hard-working people of our part of the state, including families, small businesses, and local governments. I have held the title attorney, solicitor, legal writing instructor, small business owner, and mediator. I have also been a union president, board member, and mentor. I work hard at my job, but I also work hard for my community. Those are my values and my work ethic, and I'll take those values to the bench.

I'm in this race because helping people is what is in my background, it's what I do, and it's in my heart. I have a deep commitment to public service and great respect for the law. As Judge, I will fight to ensure the Fourth District Court is compassionate, fair, and independent.

I began my career with Southeastern Ohio Le-



gal Services. I met my husband while working there fourteen years ago, and we have made Chillicothe our home. We have two children and enjoy the history and nature of southern Ohio.

I encourage everyone to take a close look at the judicial races this year - they are often an afterthought for even dedicated voters. We are living through some very unsettling and uncertain times. I feel for everyone - we all have stressors and anxiety about the future, about our families, and about the direction of our country and communities. The courts should be a place where the public can feel confident that justice will be done. I still have hope in the power of courts to affect change, right wrongs, and at a basic level, help people. I promise that I will follow the law, I will apply reason, I will be fair, and I will ensure justice for anyone who comes before me. ❖

Jaime Castle for Congress

Jaime Castle is easy to talk with ... and she listens. Her campaign slogan, "Jaime Castle ... For Congress ... For The People" sums up her attitude concerning the job she is seeking.

Jaime didn't plan to become a politician. She is a wife and a mother. She's been a small business owner and a public school teacher. She was raised in a western Cincinnati suburb (Greenhills), currently lives in Mt. Washington (an eastern Cincinnati neighborhood), and spends time visiting her parents (her father is North Adams H.S. girls' soccer "Coach D") and her sister, who moved to Adams County several years ago. Consequently, Jaime has gained a perspective that will allow her to understand and serve our diverse Congressional district.



In her own words, when Jaime Castle learned that no one had stepped up to run as a challenger to the 2nd Congressional district's incumbent, she did not hesitate to do so. Jaime says, "I am committed to advocating for and serving all of our people. ... I stand for the people who have not had their voices heard and who deserve to have their interests at heart when important legislation is developed."

Jaime Castle is endorsed by U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, Clermont County Democratic Party, Hamilton County Democratic Party, Greater Cincinnati Building & Construction Trades Council, Ohio Association of Public School Employees, and several other organizations and individuals. ❖

For more information: <https://castleforcongress.com>

Ottney for Senate 14th District

Ryan Ottney is an elected member of the New Boston City Council and chairman of the Scioto County Democratic Party. He has a B.A. in English communications and journalism minor. Ryan worked for nearly 15 years as an award-winning writer and editor for the Portsmouth Daily Times and now works as director of communications at the South Central Ohio Educational Service Center.

His work in journalism engraved upon him the importance of transparency and accountability, as well as the value of a free press. He has brought that value with him to public service and will continue to act openly and honestly to represent the diversity of all people who reside in southern Ohio.

He believes the most important issues facing southern Ohio are jobs and the opioid epidemic,



as well as affordable health care and quality education. He is fiscally responsible and socially progressive and will work to help rural counties.

Ryan comes from a family of public servants as he is the son of Marilyn Ottney and the late James Ottney, who was a New Boston fireman. He is the grandson of the late Charles "Burr" Ottney, who was Mayor of New Boston.

Why should you vote for Ryan Ottney? In addition to his values and leadership, Ryan says, "The corruption in our statehouse has destroyed the public trust in our elected officials. It's time to break the Republican supermajority by sending them all home in November and electing new leaders who will be honest and accountable to you!" ❖

It's in the Mail....Maybe! Mark Tolle for Recorder

I want to use this space to tell all of you how very much I appreciate you. So much so that I plan to take you for granted! That's right...in order to wisely spend the campaign monies you have given to my re-election effort, we are going to be selective in our mailings. Postage is expensive, time is valuable, and hey, if you are not planning on voting for Mark Tolle for Recorder, then a letter probably will not change your mind, anyway!

So let me use this format to humbly ask for your vote on November 3rd. I really like this position, and



I believe I do a pretty good job at it. I have always made only two promises: I promise to strive for perfection in the Recorder's Office, and I promise I will never achieve it! But I

will keep striving and working and guarding your very precious documents with my strongest effort.

It's funny, but when you vote for ME, you are sort of voting for... YOU. If you have confidence in the work we've done in the Office, the "ministering" of the records, the intelligent and value-added improvements and modernizations we've done...then you are voting to keep receiving the same friendly,

re-assuring service I've always given you. So, if you get a mailing, that is GREAT! If you don't, please know it's because we are diverting resources where they might encourage someone to vote for Mark Tolle for Recorder .

I do realize these are very different times we are living in, the lack of events, the onset of masks, the fear of gathering, the nervousness we all feel. Don't you think we should hold on to some of the STABLE, UN-CHANGING, CON-

SISTENT things we have in our lives? I believe I can give you that.

Tell me....when was the last time you worried about your documents or had a fear that we were unwisely spending your Tax dollars, or that you would be treated poorly in the Recorder's Office? Never? Good! That is what I want to keep providing you. You have many other things to worry about in life.

So VOTE for me! I'll give this job my very best. ❖

Voting Information

Remember, the deadline for **voter registration** is Monday, October 5. You can complete this process by filling out a Voter Registration Form, available online or from Adams County's Board of Elections, 215 N. Cross St., West Union, OH 45693. The form can be completed online, mailed in, or returned in person anytime before 4 p.m. on Monday, October 5, 2020.

Voters have choices this year... beyond the obvious, "Who do I want to vote for?" Mostly it amounts to "How do I want to vote?" and "When do I want to vote?"

In-person Voting As always registered voters can go to the polls on Election Day (Tuesday, November 3). Trained members from both of the major parties are available to help – if there is a question concerning the voting machines; if a paper ballot is wanted; if you need to vote from your vehicle; or, if for some reason, you need to cast a provisional ballot.

It will also be possible to vote in person using equipment set up at the Board of Elections in the Courthouse Annex. This is referred to as "Early In-Person Voting" and the calendar below indicates when the polls will be open (note there are some late nights and weekends) beginning Tuesday, October 6. Just like on Election Day, trained members of each party will be available to assist if you have questions or encounter difficulty using the voting machines.

Absentee Voting In Ohio any registered voter can request an absentee ballot for any reason. If you decide to take advantage of this option: you will need to complete and return the application indicating that you would like to vote absentee in the November 3 General Election. You will not have to declare your party affiliation.

OCTOBER 2020							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1	2	3	
4	5	Early In-Person Voting 8am – 5pm					10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	Early In-Person Voting 8am – 5pm					24	
18	19	20	21	22	23	8am to 4pm	
1 pm to 5pm	Early In-Person Voting 8am – 7pm					31	
25	26	27	28	29	30	8am to 4pm	

NOVEMBER 2020							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1 pm to 5pm	8am to 2pm	General Election Polls Open 6:30am to 7:30pm					7
1	2	3	4	5	6		

Absentee ballot requests are available online (<https://www.boe.ohio.gov/adams/absentee-information>), at the Board of Elections, or by calling the Board (937 544-2633). It's most efficient to return a completed application in person or to mail it to the Board. Once an application has been processed, the Board of Elections will mail out the actual absentee ballot (beginning on Tuesday, October 6, 2020).

Once a voter receives an absentee ballot, he or she can fill it out at home, then return it in person to the Board of Elections (there's a locked

"dropbox" located outside that office, just in case the office itself is closed) or the ballot can also be sent in by mail. The ballot must be postmarked no later than Monday, November 2, 2020. However, it is suggested that voters might wish to mail-in absentee ballots no later than Monday, October 19, or bring them into the Board of Elections – so they arrive before 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

It is important to consider that once you've requested an absentee ballot, you will be asked to cast a provisional ballot if you decide to vote in person. Each provisional ballot will be counted (starting the day after the election), once it's been determined that there is no record of another vote cast by the same individual – either by absentee ballot, via early voting, or at the polls.

Final Checklist Common mistakes that cause delays (or may invalidate an application or ballot) are (1) lack a signature, (2) omitting date of birth, &/or (3) not supplying the last four digits of a Social Security Number or a driver's license number. With that said, however, you decide to do it, make sure you vote ... our nation and our democracy are depending on it. ❖