

True Blue

The Adams County Democrat
April 2018

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Why it is Important for You to Vote in the May 8th Democratic Primary

May 8, 2018 is the Primary Election and you can choose from among many Democratic candidates who can then run in November. In order to vote in the Primary you must be registered, and the last day to register is April 9th. Early voting begins on April 10th.

If you think your one vote doesn't matter, consider what the outcome would have been if our founding fathers felt that way. Throughout history people have fought and died for your right to vote. People like you and me do make a difference by voting because we choose people who will work for our priorities, priorities such as affordable health care, education, a living wage and the health of our planet. You can choose to matter and to make a difference by voting and nothing stands in your way.

Between now and the time you vote, it

is important to study the candidates as there are several contested races. Among the contested races in the Democratic Primary are Governor, 2nd Congressional, 90th State Representative, and male member of Democratic State Executive Committee.

We give you information on the candidates at all levels including judicial candidates. We provide websites where you can do more in-depth research to help you be an informed voter. We also summarize a statewide ballot issue proposing redistricting reform.

The focus of this edition is on the Primary Election with a few other articles that impact our state or are of interest locally. Read True Blue and share it! Study the issues and candidates further and give us feedback and suggestions for future editions. And please be sure to vote in the Primary!

“Our Constitution is in actual operation. Everything appears to promise that it will last. But in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.”
- Benjamin Franklin

Vote for Issue 1

Last fall more than 2,000 volunteers collected over 200,000 signatures of registered Ohio voters who were willing to support a bipartisan amendment to Ohio's Constitution. They were part of a group known as the “Fair Districts = Fair Elections Coalition,” which was backed by both the League of Women Voters and Common Cause. As a result of this grassroots campaign, members of Ohio's General Assembly worked together to come up with their own constitutional amendment, which will appear on the ballot in this May's primary election as Issue 1.

According to state Democratic Chair David Pepper, Ohio's current Congressional districts are

the result of “the worst gerrymandered map in the history of the state.” Many political pundits have stated that once that map was drawn after the 2010 census, Republicans have been virtually “guaranteed” to win all but two of Ohio's seats in the U.S. Congress.

Issue 1 is an attempt to remedy the current situation. If voters decide to pass Issue 1, it stipulates that when a new map is drawn after the 2020 census, 3/5ths of both houses of the General Assembly (including at least 50% of whichever is the minority party) must be willing to accept the redistricting plan. If this cannot be achieved, then drawing a “fair” map becomes the responsibility

Vote for Issue 1 con't...

of a 7-member Redistricting Committee (where at least 2 votes from whichever is the minority party must be cast in favor of the plan).

There are two other methods established as “fall backs,” in case the Redistricting Committee should fail in its attempt to draw a new map. Moreover, Issue 1 contains several specific provisions that will limit the number and ways

in which counties and other communities can be “split.”

Volunteers for Fair Districts Ohio plan to continue collecting signatures for their ballot initiative until after Issue 1 has actually passed. This is seen as a way to keep politicians’ “feet to the fire.” Issue 1 has been endorsed by the Ohio Democratic Party, whose Chair has observed that, “When the people really rise up, elected officials must respond.” ❖

Sherrod Brown *for United States Senate, Representing Ohio*



“Washington bailed out Wall Street, and Wall Street turned around and stole pensions [that] Ohioans worked for...Congress has responsibility to protect the pensions workers earned before it is too late.” – Sherrod Brown

Many Adams County residents have met Sherrod Brown and know that he is friendly, knowledgeable, and willing to fight for their rights. Most can share a positive anecdote concerning his record of service – first, as Ohio Secretary of State, then as a member of the U.S. Congress, and most

recently as a member of the U.S. Senate.

Sherrod has championed issues such as fair trade policies (before the notion became popular), opposing efforts to export food jobs to other countries (remember, Sherrod once joined Ted Strickland in the U.S. House to vote against NAFTA), and advocating consistently for middle class issues (in the face of Big Money opposition, such as the Koch brothers).

Sherrod Brown succeeded in introducing 120 bipartisan bills in the Senate in 2017. Similarly, he led members to stand up to our geopolitical adversaries. But, throughout it all, Sherrod stays in the limelight and on the cutting edge of issues important to middle class Ohioans. He supported the empowerment of border agents to identify and apprehend fentanyl smugglers, and fought to protect pensions that Ohioans have earned. (He now serves as Co-chair of the Joint Select Committee on Pensions).

Sherrod Brown has been endorsed by the Ohio Democrat Party and deserves to be reelected.

For more information:
<https://www.sherrodbrown.com> ❖

A Look Beyond the Name... William R. Smith has name recognition because he was on the ballot in 2012, 2014, and 2016. This year he is once again running as a Democratic candidate for the 2nd Congressional District. In each previous cycle, Mr. Smith mounted no campaign and has never attended any Democratic function in Adams County. His past lack of effort demonstrates he is not an electable standard-bearer for the Democratic Party in a General Election. You know his name and now you know more than his name. ❖

Dr. Janet Everhard
for U.S. House of Representatives, OH-2



Hello! I'm Dr. Janet Everhard, your neighbor from New Richmond, Clermont County, and I'm running for U.S. Representative to Congress. I have a long history of serving the 2nd Congressional

District as a physician and as volunteer to veterans, and now I want to fight for you in Washington. We now have more than 70 volunteers on our staff across the district.

The incumbent votes over and over to leave hard-working families behind and has done little to help small businesses – his focus has been on big donors and the status quo. I will be focused on you! I will fight for every citizen's right to affordable, quality healthcare and a living wage. I will actively work to fund our infrastructure in OH-2 and southern Ohio's small business development and I will be an energetic voice for you in promoting green energy jobs, fighting the opiate epidemic, and securing lifelong education for all.

You deserve a representative who cares about your family's health, wealth, safety, and education, someone who resonates with young and old from all walks of life. Please vote for me in the May 8 Democratic Primary and the November 6 General Election.

We'd love to have you join our campaign! Your support would mean so much in this crucial election. Perhaps hosting a party at your home or a "meet-and-greet" at a local coffee shop? Or canvassing? There are many ways to get involved. Just sign up on <https://www.drjanetforcongress.com> or contact Barbara Cowley-Durst (Adams County Volunteer Coordinator) at 937-217-3302. We're in it to win it!

Website is <https://www.drjanetforcongress.com>
Follow on Twitter @VoteEverhard. ❖

Jill Schiller
for U.S. House of Representatives, OH-2



Jill Schiller loves living in southern Ohio and has been impressed by the beauty of Adams County. However, she is also aware of the challenges that face this region.

Jill has stated, "With the looming plant closures and the continuing opioid epidemic, there are real needs that are not being met by our current leadership in Washington, D.C. That's why I'm running... Southern Ohio, including Adams County, needs real leadership with real solutions in Washington."

Jill is a mother, an attorney, founder of a children's literacy and creative writing non-profit, and former Obama administration staffer. She grew up in northeast Philadelphia and was the first in her family to go to college. Her father was a union water plant employee and her mother was an office administrator before she was diagnosed with lupus, a debilitating auto-immune disease.

Jill believes that, "Good stable jobs and affordable, accessible healthcare are the backbone of a strong community." She plans to encourage all levels of government "to work with private industry to build 21st Century energy jobs that will provide the backbone that will lift up our communities."

Jill also plans to "advocate for improvement to federal healthcare funding so that effective addiction and counseling services can be delivered to those in need." She has overseen the \$2.5 million budget of a nonprofit known as Downtown Cincinnati Inc., which fosters economic development and improving the quality of residential living and is currently the principal of Schiller Consulting Group, which provides strategy and management expertise for the non-profit sector. For more information see www.voteschiller.com ❖

Local Issues on May 8 Primary Ballot

Voters in Brush Creek Twp. will have a local liquor option on the ballot for 1st Stop in Lynx.

Voters in Scott Twp. and Seaman Village will have a renewal tax levy of .7 mills for cemeteries on the ballot.

Voters in West Union A & B will have on the ballot an additional tax levy of 8.5 mills for fire and EMS. ❖

Ohio's Online Charter School Fiasco

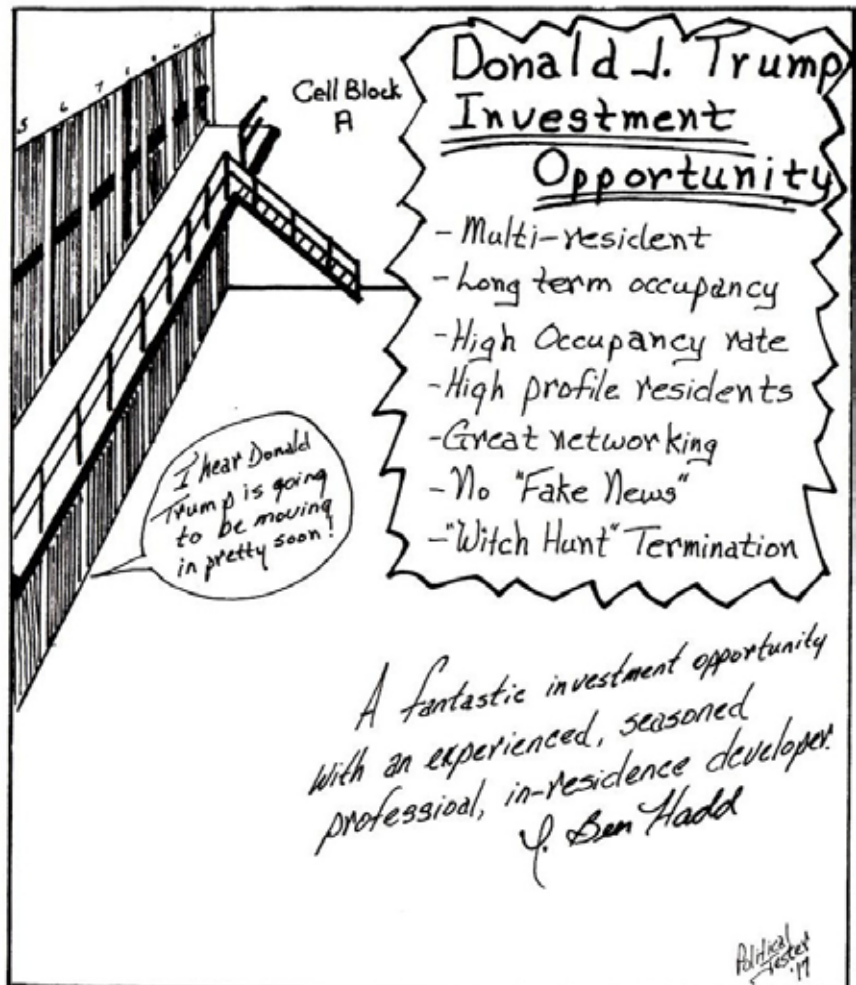
Charter schools in Ohio are one of the many privatization initiatives which divert taxpayer money away from Ohio public schools. Some of these charter schools are actual school buildings, while some are internet-based, online programs. Educational outcomes from Ohio's charter schools are a growing concern to the citizens of our state; all too often, the money invested to educate students has wound up lining the pockets of the schools' founders. The story here is continuing to unfold.

In Adams County, there are no building-based charter schools. But, internet-based, online charter schools have been very active and have impacted our schools and our communities. These privately owned, charter schools take taxpayer monies away from local school districts while promising to educate the students enrolled in them. Yet, in too many cases, these charter schools are not meeting their basic obligations. In one case, the charter school suddenly closed down mid-year, literally leaving all of its students educationally stranded.

Administrators from Adams County/Ohio Valley Local Schools and the Manchester Local School

District report that Adams County taxpayers sent nearly \$700,000 to online charter schools to pay for Adams County students enrolled in online educational programs during the 2016-17 school year. Yet, according to data collected by the state during that same time period, online institutions receiving these monies too often failed to even keep track of the Ohio students they were paid to educate.

Adams County/Ohio Valley Local Schools and Manchester Local School District also report our county had a total of 55 students enrolled in the largest of these online schools, the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT), during the 2016-2017 school year. After ECOT was sued by the Ohio Department of Education for failing to provide basic records on these students, ECOT suddenly closed down in January, 2018. This caused significant disruption to the educations of these students. Students, their families, and their Ohio's home school districts were suddenly faced with the challenge of seeking and finding other, appropriate



Online Charter School Fiasco con't

school programs for these students during the middle of the school year.

When ECOT closed in January 2018, approximately 12,000 students from throughout the state were enrolled in its program. These students, from throughout Ohio, were suddenly left “high and dry,” needing to find appropriate school settings in the middle of the school year in order to continue their educations.

Local public schools and teachers are continuously being evaluated and asked to demonstrate improved student performance and favorable educational outcomes. However, according to state-collected data from the 2016-2017 school year, “every penny sent from a school district to ECOT...came from a district that outperformed the online giant by at least four out of thirteen state report card categories. And an astonishing one out of every four

dollars sent to ECOT came from a district that outperformed ECOT on every comparable measure” (Stephen Dyer, “Innovation Ohio,” 2/2/18).

Millions of dollars of taxpayer monies have been diverted to ECOT, and to many other charter schools, over the past two decades. Because ECOT’s educational outcomes have been less than had been promised, the state is attempting to recover some of these funds. It is not known how successful these recovery efforts will be. And, it could be argued that the state has some culpability here, as the state contracted with ECOT and the state was responsible to provide oversight. More information is likely to be forthcoming in the future regarding resources that have been entrusted to charter school programs. We will attempt to provide an update on this important matter to True Blue’s readers in our fall issue. ❖

Democratic Candidates for Governor on the Primary Ballot

The Ohio Democratic Party (ODP) has not endorsed a candidate for Governor in the Primary and believes an open Primary is good for democracy. There will be six Democratic candidates for Governor on the ballot. Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton and Connie Pillich, former State Representative both withdrew and have endorsed Richard Cordray. Though ODP has not endorsed, four of the candidates were vetted by an ODP committee and are approved to participate in ODP Candidate Debates & Town Hall Forums.

Listed below, alphabetically, are the candidates and their Lt. Governor running mate with some background info on each and their websites (if available). Those vetted are noted with an asterisk. * We hope this brief information will encourage you to do further research to help you determine for yourself the serious and most qualified candidates from the many names that will appear on the ballot.

***Richard Cordray & Betty Sutton**

<https://cordrayforohio.com>

Former State Representative, Ohio Solicitor General, Treasurer of Franklin County, Treasurer of State of Ohio, Ohio Attorney General and Director of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Lives in Grove City

Larry Ealy & Jeffrey Lynn

(No website as of 3/6/18)

Former exotic dancer who ran for Governor in 2014. Lives in Trotwood.

***Dennis Kucinich & Tara Samples**

<https://www.kucinich.com>

Former Mayor of Cleveland, State Senator, U.S. Congressman, & former contributor for Fox News.

Lives in Cleveland

***Bill O’Neill & Chantelle Lewis**

<http://oneillforgovernor.org>

Retired Lt. Colonel U.S. Army, Former Judge 11th Court of Appeals, Justice Ohio Supreme Court resigned in January 2018 to launch bid for Governor. Lives in Chagrin Falls

Paul E. Ray & Jerry Schroeder

(No website 3/6/18)

From Alliance

***Joe Schiavoni & Stephanie Dodd**

<https://www.joeforjobs.com>

State Senator and former Minority Leader of Ohio Senate. Lives in Boardman ❖

Adrienne Buckler
for State Representative, 90th District



When Scioto County attorney Adrienne Buckler announced that she had filed petitions to run as a candidate for State Representative – 90th District she stated, “I can be an effective leader for Scioto, Adams, and Lawrence Counties in that I

have the dedication, drive and strong voice to represent Southern Ohio.”

Buckler indicated that she is running for the office of state representative because she wants to work for “the betterment of our area, for our communities, for our families, for our friends, for our co-workers, for our children, and for our grandchildren.”

Adrienne believes that a strong leader can accomplish many goals and says, “I have been taught at a young age to set goals, lay a solid foundation for success, be honest and fair, and work hard to be a respected leader.” She goes on to state that as an attorney, “I use my voice and advocate for my clients on a daily basis, and I want to be your advocate – YOUR VOICE – in Columbus.”

Adrienne on the issues:

- Promote job creation and job retention.
- Work for drug treatment and counseling for treating opioid addiction.
- Promote quality education for the success of our children.

For information: <http://www.adrienneforohio.com>. ❖

Joni Fearing
for State Representative, 90th District



I was born in Portsmouth, and have family in Lawrence County. I’m a progressive Democrat and campaigned for Bernie Sanders. I’m pro-union, against right-to-work, and for single-payer universal health care.

I hold a BA in English and a Master of Divinity, with a background in sales, marketing and broadcasting. I’m a member of the League of Women Voters of Portsmouth/Scioto County and serve on their board. I’m also a member of Portsmouth CONNEX and the Southern Ohio Museum, and a past member of SOLACE.

We are all aware of our needs. Drugs, lost jobs, and poverty have taken a toll. I hope to remind us how special our district, the “Jewel on the Ohio,” remains. The Serpent Mound is a world-renowned historic site. Moyer’s is a riverfront treasure, and the Edge of Appalachia is a place of natural beauty. Adams and Scioto share Shawnee State Forest. I believe we can do more to develop our tourism economy.

If the former A-Plant site in Piketon can be cleaned up to industrial standards, refusing a dump, we have a better chance of bringing in new industry, like alternative energy. As my family lost my father to several cancers as a result of his working at the A-Plant, I feel very strongly about this issue and will work hard to bring jobs to a safer environment.

I hope to be given the opportunity to serve District 90 in Columbus. Since returning to Ohio, that has been my goal, to use my education and broad experience to serve my home region. ❖

Candidates for Ohio Democratic Party State Executive Committee Representing Senate District 14
(Adams, Brown, Clermont, part of Lawrence, & Scioto Counties)

Woman

Melanie Ogg - Resident and teacher in Scioto County. Current State Executive member and running unopposed in May Primary.

Man

Tim Hogan - Resident of Clermont County, former County Commissioner. Owner of Hogan Associates,

Real Estate and Appraisal Services in Milford.

William Ogg - Resident of Scioto County and currently Scioto County Treasurer. (Spouse: Melanie Ogg)

Zach Triplett - Resident of Brown County and member of Brown County Central Committee, President of Brown County Democrat Club. ❖

Valerie Gerlach
for Judge of Ohio 4th District Court of Appeals



Valerie Gerlach of Portsmouth is running for the 4th Court of Appeals. She may look familiar, as she ran against an incumbent in 2016 and is now trying for an open seat on the court.

Gerlach graduated from Portsmouth High School and received a degree in psychology from the University of Cincinnati. She is a graduate of Capital Law School where she was 1st in her class and was a legal writing advisor. She clerked two years for a Federal District Court judge, which required her to draft opinions and use legal analysis daily.

She has been in private practice for over 25 years at the Gerlach & Gerlach law firm in Portsmouth, which keeps her in touch with people. She is well qualified for the position and has demonstrated the academic aptitude necessary. She learned a lot about campaigning in 2016 and looks forward to the 2018 cycle. ❖

Marie Hoover
for Judge of Ohio 4th District Court of Appeals



Judge Marie Hoover is running for reelection as Judge of Ohio Fourth District Court of Appeals.

A licensed attorney for 24 years, Judge Hoover has extensive experience serving as an attorney and judge. She is licensed in the Supreme Court of the United States,

State of Ohio, and Commonwealth of Kentucky. In addition to serving aptly and honorably for many years, she contributes to the education of attorneys and participates in professional organizations and honoraria. Her peers have elected her to serve as Presiding Judge over the Ohio Fourth District Court of Appeals.

Judge Hoover is a life-long resident of Ohio. She graduated from Waverly High School, Miami University, and the Ohio State University College of Law. She and her family live in Scioto County.

Judge Hoover is running unopposed in the primary and will face a Republican in the fall of 2018. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/Marie-Hoover-Judge-of-Fourth-District-Court-of-Appeals-255404594571662/> ❖

Steve Dettelbach for Ohio Attorney General



ENDORSED



Steve Dettelbach is running for Ohio Attorney General to make our communities safer and to make sure that everybody plays by one set of rules. Steve is not a politician. He's a prosecutor.

Priorities:

- As Attorney General, Steve will work to hold politicians accountable and stop them from rigging the rules in favor of their campaign donors and special interests.
- Steve will conduct a top to bottom review of Ohio's ethics laws to end the pay to play

schemes in Columbus that let powerful special interests play by another set of rules than everyone else.

- Steve will also enforce the law and hold everyone accountable, no matter how rich, powerful or well-connected they are.
- Steve will hold the for-profit education industry accountable so that companies like ECOT don't scam taxpayers and kids out of money, and he'll stand up for our laws and constitution whenever and wherever they are threatened.

Steve Dettelbach and his candidacy are endorsed by the Ohio Democratic Party.

<https://steveforohio.com>

(He is also on Facebook and Twitter.) ❖



Rob Richardson for State Treasurer

Rob Richardson is a marketing construction representative in Cincinnati while also serving “of counsel” with the law firm Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, where he does securities litigation. He served nine years as a University of Cincinnati board member, most recently as President. Rob holds a BS degree in Electrical Engineering and JD degree, both from the University of Cincinnati. He intends to focus the office of the Treasurer on efficiency, innovation and accountability. He and his candidacy are endorsed by the Ohio Democratic Party. For more information please visit <https://www.robforohio.com/> ❖

 ENDORSED

Zack Space for Auditor of State

 ENDORSED



Zack Space has announced his candidacy for Auditor of State. Zack was born and raised in Dover, Ohio. He was a member of US Congress from 18th Ohio District from 2007 until 2011.

Zack has been endorsed by the Ohio Democratic Party. Zack is running for Auditor to help deliver much needed reform to state government. Zack is committed to promote best practices and transparency. He will focus on reducing the

influence that campaign contributions have on policy, taking politics out of the redistricting process, and servicing as a watchdog for hard-working Ohioans. He will shine a light on the improper influence of pay-to-play politics.

As Auditor, Zack will conduct objective, in-depth, and fact-based performance audits to ensure Ohioans’ tax dollars are efficiently serving their interest. Zack will use performance audits to protect you and your tax dollars. It is important to protect your tax dollars by auditing any entity that receives public funds. Zack will work tirelessly to reform our government and restore faith in Ohio’s democracy. For more information go to <https://www.zackspaceforohio.com>. ❖

Kathleen Clyde for Ohio Secretary of State

 ENDORSED



Representative Kathleen Clyde became a candidate for Ohio Secretary of State in May, 2017. She has been elected to the Ohio House of Representatives four times and has been a consistently strong advocate for redistricting reform and voting rights.

Representative Clyde believes that the state needs to maintain accurate voting lists, but has observed that “the purge of over 2 million voters simply for moving within Ohio (or not voting in every election) violates federal law and it violates

Ohioan’s rights.

Representative Clyde supports automatic voter registration for all eligible voters, which she sees as a cost-savings approach. She also favors adding a cyber-security director to the office of the Secretary of State and is concerned about aging voting equipment. Clyde’s goal is to secure and modernize Ohio’s election process in order to make sure that every Ohioan’s vote counts.

Kathleen Clyde has been endorsed by numerous individuals and organizations, including the Ohio Democratic Party. More information about her and her positions can be found at <http://www.kathleenclyde.com> ❖

Democratic Candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court



ENDORSED

The success of American democracy is dependent on the concepts of separation of powers and of each branch of government providing a check on one another. In the upcoming primary election, the executive and legislative branches will receive maximum coverage, but in this election season the Ohio supreme court will have openings that the electorate will decide. Democrats have put forth two candidates that can add expertise and diversity to the decisions confronting the court. Both are endorsed by the Ohio Democratic Party.

Judge Michael P. Donnelly



Michael P. Donnelly was elected in 2016 for the second time to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Judge Donnelly has impressive credentials for the position. He received his law degree from John Carroll University and his law degree from Cleveland State University's

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. After being admitted to the Ohio bar in 1992, he served five years as Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor. After this position judge Donnelly worked in private practice for seven years before he was elected to the common Pleas bench. During this time period he was appointed by Ohio Supreme Court to the Commission on Professionalism from 2007-12. He served on Ohio State Board of Examiners and on the Ohio Jury Instructions Committee. Also, Judge Donnelly has been involved and serves on board of the Cleveland Baseball Federation which is one of Cleveland's oldest charitable organizations helping Cleveland's children play ball in the summer at no charge.

An important question to contemplate when considering a candidate is why is the candidate seeking this position and what policies will he be working towards. Let us quote Judge Donnelly: "I love being a trial court judge because it offers me the opportunity to use the law to help people resolve disputes. This ability of our courts makes them an indispensable backbone of our society. . . I believe that to ensure the public's confidence in our courts, we must be as transparent as possible and give the public the chance to discern that disputes are being resolved fairly through an open and efficient process. . . As a Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court,

I will . . . provide all citizens with the opportunity to access the courts for dispute resolution and ensure that justice is neither delayed nor denied."

The Supreme Court of Ohio is a critical component in the governing of Ohio. With all the present seats fulfilled by the Republican Party, a countervailing voice is required. Your participation and vote is critical. ❖

Judge Melody J. Stewart



Judge Melody J. Stewart is currently serving in the Ohio Court of Appeals in the Eighth Appellate District, Cuyahoga County. She has twice been reelected to this position (in 2010 and 2016) and is a candidate in the November 2018 election for a seat on the Ohio Supreme Court.

Judge Stewart earned her law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University, and has completed her Ph.D. at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. Ms. Stewart is also a graduate of the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

Judge Stewart will bring 30 years of life/work experience to the Ohio Supreme Court. She has worked in the health care industry, as a music educator, a non-criminal trial lawyer, an assistant dean at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and also as a professor at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, in addition to her years of service on the Ohio Court of Appeals.

We very much need a Democratic voice on the Ohio Supreme Court. (Presently, all seven seats are held by Republicans.) Judge Melody J. Stewart can be that voice. ❖

In Memoriam

Barbara Finnegan

In 2011, Barbara Finnegan stepped out of her comfort zone and took a risk as she made a proposal to the Joint Central & Executive Committee that we do a newsletter. With her inspiration and leadership, True Blue became a reality. From 2011 until her death in March 2017, she contributed articles and funding, did the layout, maintained the postal mailing list and mailed and emailed True Blue.



Barbara was a valued member of the Adams County Democrat Club where she served as Treasurer and had been a member of the Joint Central & Executive Committee representing Bratton Precinct. She served as a Poll Worker and actively supported candidates and causes she believed in and spearheaded many of the food outreach projects. True Blue is just one of her legacies, but one we are working to continue as we hope to educate and inform. ❖

Virginia Grooms

A True Blue, Die-Hard, Yellow Dog Democrat...these are all adjectives used to describe Virginia B. Grooms, who passed away in January, 2018. At the time of her passing, she was a member of the Adams County Democratic Joint Central & Executive Committee, representing Tiffin East Precinct. She was County Chair for 18 years, from 1990 to 2008. She was a member of the Adams County Board of Elections from 2001 through 2013. She was instrumental in the formation of the Adams County Democrat Club in the 1960's and had served as Secretary/Treasurer for many years. She had been a member of the Ohio Democratic State Executive Committee, the Ohio Democratic County Chairs Association and the Southern Chairs



Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland with Virginia Grooms

Association.

She worked enthusiastically to help elect Democrats. She served as Ted Strickland's County Coordinator when he ran for Congress in 1976 and it might have been during that campaign when Ted developed a liking for Virginia's raspberry pies. She worked tirelessly to support the Party by selling tickets, marching or riding in parades and donating baked goods for the auction.

Virginia is survived by her daughter Sally Heston, son Chester Grooms and wife Charlotte, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Her family has indicated that they plan to donate some political memorabilia and campaign buttons from Virginia's collection to the local Party which we can auction for fundraising. ❖

Bonnie Hawkins



In September 2017, we were stunned by the sudden, unexpected death of Bonnie Hawkins. Bonnie was a longtime member of the Joint Central & Executive Committee, representing first West Union East and later West Union A Precinct. She served as a Poll Worker and was very active in the Adams County Democrat Club. She supported Party functions faithfully with her attendance and funding and regularly attended events sponsored by the Ohio Democratic Party. ❖

Janet Campbell



In October 2017, Janet K. Campbell passed after a brief illness. Janet was a member of the Board of Elections, a member of the Joint Central & Executive Committee representing Liberty North Precinct. She was very active in the Adams County Democrat Club having served as President. She was a tireless worker for the Party, supporting many of our functions by selling tickets and by donating baked goods and bidding and buying at the auctions. ❖