

# The Sojourner's Truth

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Volume 86 No. 6

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

October 30, 2024



Candidate for Judge  
Amy Stoner



Councilwoman  
Brittany Jones



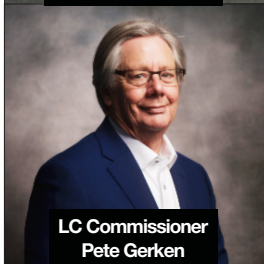
U.S. Senator  
Sherrod Brown



Candidate for  
Judge Ken Walz



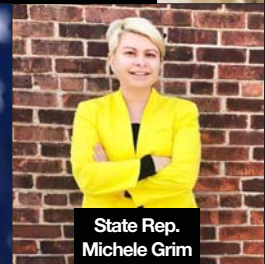
Justice  
Melody Stewart



LC Commissioner  
Pete Gerken



Vice President  
Kamala Harris



State Rep.  
Michele Grim



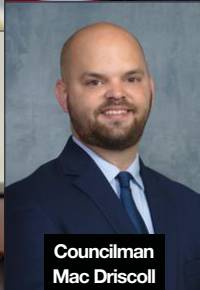
State Rep. Candidate  
Dave Blyth



State Rep.  
Elgin Rogers



LC Commissioner  
Anita Lopez



Councilman  
Mac Driscoll



Justice Michael  
Donnelly



State Candidate Rep.  
Erika White



U.S. Rep.  
Marcy Kaptur

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Join Kamala Harris, Tim Walz, Sherrod Brown & Marcy Kaptur (OH-9)

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State Representative  
*41st District*

**ELGIN ROGERS JR.**  
State Representative  
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**MICHELE GRIM**  
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**AMY E. STONER**  
Judge of the Court of  
Common Pleas  
*Juvenile Court*

**KAREN CONNELLY**  
Judge of the Court of  
Common Pleas  
*Domestic Relations*

**MAC DRISCOLL**  
Toledo City Council At-Large

**BRITTANY JONES**  
Toledo City Council At-Large

**YES ON ISSUE 9**  
for Fair Term Limits

**YES ON ISSUE 19**  
for Toledo Public Schools

**YES ON ISSUE 24**  
for Toledo Lucas County  
Public Library

**YES ON ISSUE 29**  
to Support Seniors

**YES ON ISSUE 30**  
for Lucas County  
Children's Services



**VOTE YES ON ISSUE 1**  
*End Gerrymandering in Ohio*



# Representation Is Supreme in Ohio's Supreme Court Races

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

*History teaches us that grave threats to liberty often come in times of urgency, when constitutional rights seem too extravagant to endure.*

- Thurgood Marshall



The most significant political races in the 2024 election cycle are the Ohio Supreme Court races, where control of the court's balance is at stake. The Republicans currently hold a narrow 4-3 majority. However, the results could shift the court's composition and direction if Democrats retain their incumbents and secure an additional seat.

Former Obama-era Attorney General Eric Holder has pointed out that decisions made in state supreme courts often impact our daily lives even more directly than federal elections. The court must, therefore, ensure that it serves all Ohioans fairly as it interprets recently voter-approved constitutional amendments impacting abortion rights and upcoming decisions on utility rates, redistricting, and other key issues.

Justice Melody Stewart, the first African American woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court, is front and center of these looming decisions and their pervasive impact on Ohioans. Stewart's unique perspective offers Ohioans a voice in the judiciary that mirrors their diverse experiences.

Raised by a single mother and a "village" of teachers, family members, and other positive community members who instilled values of integrity and perseverance, Stewart received her undergraduate degree in music from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music before earning her J.D. from Cleveland State University's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied

Social Sciences.

A brilliant woman of color and well-prepared for her role on Ohio's Supreme Court, her career spans institutions of higher learning, having served as an assistant dean and lecturer at Cleveland-Marshall, where she taught ethics, criminal law, criminal procedure, and legal writing in roles at Case Western, the University of Toledo College of Law and Ursuline College. Stewart was elected to Ohio's Eighth District Court of Appeals in 2006 and served until her 2018 election to the Ohio Supreme Court.



Justice Melody Stewart

In our conversation, Justice Stewart reflects on her journey and elaborates on why diverse perspectives on the court are crucial to a fair and equitable judicial system.

**Perryman:** Tell us about your journey to become the first African American ... continued on page 4

“My focus for District 41 is on putting my community first and being your voice in government. I am dedicated to continue fighting for the working & middle class, advocating for mental health & disability rights and protecting women's reproductive rights & our personal freedoms.”

**ERIKA WHITE**  
FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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*Perryman...continued from page 3*

woman elected to the Ohio Supreme Court, your challenges, and how you overcame them.

**Stewart:** Reflecting on my struggles, I realize that while I faced my share, they were not as intense as those of my mother's generation. My mother grew up in the segregated South, where schools for Black children went only to the eighth grade, and she experienced overt racism that I couldn't imagine enduring. She raised me alone, working nights at the post office to provide for us. Despite our limited means, she always kept our rented apartment neat, teaching me pride and respect.

My father didn't raise me or support me, but I had a relationship with him later in life. But my mother's dedication was unwavering—she even took extra shifts to pay for my music lessons after my kindergarten teacher noticed my interest. This support allowed me to become my high school choir's accompanist and eventually earn a bachelor's degree in music. So, the "village" raised me and instilled the strength, ambition, and resilience that have shaped my path and values.

**Perryman:** You were a music major in college. How do you think music affected your perspective on the bench?

**Stewart:** My background in music, study of orchestration, and score reading helped me with details - the finer details and the analytical aspect of law school. It helps me now in practicing law, teaching law, proofreading and writing about the law. For me, it has to read right. It's got to sound right. It's got to flow right. So, I attribute that to the musical aspect of my training.

**Perryman:** You also have a Ph.D. in social science and have been an educator. How do those experiences blend together to shape your worldview and judicial philosophy?

**Stewart:** You asked a perfect question. My music training sharpened my analytical skills, teaching me attention to detail, flow and harmony. Law school provided the foundation for thinking like a lawyer, understanding black letter law and navigating the interplay between statutes and the Constitution.

My Ph.D. training taught me to ask the right questions on the bench and consider the unintended consequences of judicial decisions. It reminded me that we are not all-knowing in our robes. The Ph.D. also emphasized the importance of data in checking implicit biases—those unconscious tendencies,

both positive and negative, that can lead to systemic unfairness and influence judicial decisions in subtle but profound ways.

**Perryman:** We're seeing a dramatic increase in voter restriction laws nationwide. How can Ohio set an example for protecting voting rights?

**Stewart:** For me, it always comes back to education. Political strategists and partisan officials often exploit those with less education, using factors that disproportionately affect certain populations to limit their voting rights. This includes issues like lacking ID or license suspensions, which further marginalize communities. Meanwhile, claims of widespread voter fraud seem more like dog whistles, as unlawful voting is a low priority for most people simply seeking resources or opportunity.

If we aren't vigilant, these subtle erosions of rights will escalate, echoing the restrictions of Jim Crow days. To combat this, we must proactively understand and utilize the laws to level the playing field.

**Perryman:** You're running against someone with a long history of working as a prosecutor. How can the courts contribute to meaningful changes in policing and criminal justice practices that disproportionately affect African Americans and other minorities?

**Stewart:** Let me make a minor correction: that long-time prosecutor is running against me. He's leaving a seat given to him by the governor to try to run and take the seat that I'm in.

**Perryman:** Thank you for correcting me.

**Stewart:** I have never run to take a seat from someone of an opposing party; I have always waited for open seats or retirements. While others may run against incumbents, I find it distasteful, especially when it involves a good public servant, regardless of their political affiliation.

In contrast, my opponent openly campaigns with a "prosecutor in a robe" approach, emphasizing public safety in their ads. This message implies they'll consistently rule in favor of the state—more fitting for a role like attorney general or county sheriff, not a Supreme Court justice.

As justices, our duty is to impartially uphold the Constitution and laws for everyone, even when the outcome is uncomfortable.

**Perryman:** How do you approach cases where women's rights intersect with broader constitutional and social issues?

*...continued on page 22*

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# Black Women Set to Break Barriers on Election Day: A Leadership Surge Decades in the Making

*Black women are poised for leadership breakthroughs on Election Day up and down the ballot*

*More than half a century of work by Black women has been done to make U.S. political leadership more representational and responsive*

By Glynda C. Carr  
Guest Column

There has been great excitement and renewed voter engagement since Vice President Kamala Harris rose to the top of the Democratic presidential ticket on July 21st. And with good reason: Her candidacy not only injected a much-needed dose of optimism into the race; it also revived the possibility that voters will choose a new leader who is forward-looking, capable, and driven by the needs of working-class Americans.

Harris' candidacy is seminal because it provides a chrysalis moment for America to more fully emerge from beneath the historical weight of gender and race oppression that still too often elevates dangerous and unqualified White, male leadership over more advantageous and prepared women and people of color. However, a recent report by the Center for Democracy & Technology and the Ford Institute for Human Security reveals that this progress is not without significant challenges, particularly in the digital sphere.

The report, titled "Hated More: Online Violence Targeting Women of Color Candidates in the 2024 US Election," highlights the disproportion-



Glynda C. Carr

...continued on page 17

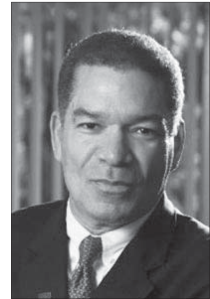
# Trump Wants Black Males to Vote for Him

*What do they have to lose? A hell of a lot.*

By Michael A. Grant

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Looking historically at demographics, Black men in America have for centuries been singled out for the most vicious and dehumanizing attacks on their personhood and their manhood.

Without delving too deeply into America's dark past, one need only to read the Autobiography of Frederick Douglas to capture a glimpse of the atrocious acts perpetrated against Black men that began during slavery and continued unabated with the murders of George Floyd, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and others to understand that the institutional animosity, the stereotyping and the marginalizing is an everyday phenomenon that still defines the day-to-day existence of many Black men struggling to survive in America.



Michael Grant

Donald Trump continues to perpetuate a "Guilty until proven innocent" mentality that too many in authority still perpetuate. His record of racist and derogatory behavior toward Black men is well-documented. To begin, he and his father discriminated against African-Americans who wanted to rent Trump apartments in New York.

To add to this record of racial discrimination, Trump – without hard evidence – asserted that the "Central Park Five" (four young Black males and one Latino) were guilty of the brutal rape of a young White woman and asserted that they deserved the death penalty. Even after the accused were exonerated, Trump has consistently refused to apologize. He doubled down on this false accusation during his recent debate with Vice President Kamala Harris.

When Colin Kaepernick, an NFL free agent, encouraged other players to "Take a knee" in protest of unfair treatment within the NFL franchise, Trump's answer to their grievance was to call the players "Sons of Bitches."

Recently, Trump ranted that police officers should become even more aggressive, more abusive, when making arrests. Guess who would bear the brunt of this Jim Crow – era policing? You guessed it: Black males.

Donald Trump is a politician who knows how to tamp down his racist rhetoric when he stands to gain from creating an illusion of civility but someone has wisely stated: "Lipstick on a pig is still a pig".

Trump's insulting remarks about Black men identifying with him because he now has a "mugshot" represents a new low for this incorrigible con man. And marketing gold sneakers is not identifying, it is exploiting.

...continued on page 21

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# ISSUE 1

## Commentary: A Citizens-led Ballot Issue Can Ban Gerrymandering

By Sanford Lubin  
Guest Column

Ohio citizens have a legal recourse for protecting constitutional rights that is not available to residents of most of the states in the country. There are 18 states in the U.S. (which includes Ohio) where citizens can organize and place an issue on the ballot to amend the constitution in their state.

This approach involving a citizens-led constitutional amendment is being used in the November 2024 elections to enable Ohio voters to finally ban gerrymandered election districts with the passage of Issue 1.

### When Politicians are out of touch with the Voters

When politicians are out of touch with the needs and wants of citizens, residents in each of the 18 states can organize to place a ballot issue before the voters. In the other 32 states, the legislature completely controls the ability to make laws, and citizens do not have the right to organize and amend the state constitution.

In the early 1900s, Ohio was known to citizens around the country. Periodically, articles appeared in newspapers across the U.S. disclosing bribery scandals involving Ohio legislators taking money in exchange for the legislator's support for whatever new law someone was willing to make a bribery payment.

Ohio citizens became incensed and organized an effort to address this issue. In 1912, Ohioans were able to place an issue before voters that allowed citizens to organize and place issues on the ballot. The 1912 ballot issue passed with overwhelming support and was used to clean up corruption in the General Assembly. And it has been used over the past 112 years to address issues for which Ohio politicians have been out of touch with the voters.

### Gerrymandered Election Districts and Reproductive Freedom

During 2022 and 2023 a group of Ohio citizens began organizing another effort to ban gerrymandering. And at the same time, another group of citizens began the work of restoring reproductive rights to women in the state. Each group worked to organize separate citizens-led constitutional amendments.

In counter these citizen initiatives, a number of Ohio politicians led an effort to call a special election for a ballot issue in August 2023 that, if passed, would have effectively ended the use of citizen-led constitutional amendments. One of the politicians leading this effort, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, told citizens that this ballot issue was needed in order to "protect Ohioans from out of state special interests groups."

Media organizations around the state revealed information showing that this information from LaRose and other Ohio politicians leading this effort was not truthful, and instead had misled Ohio citizens in an attempt to deceive them into forfeiting their long-held rights involving citizen-led ballot issues.

A June 1 article by Andrew Tobias on Cleveland.com revealed plans by the politicians organizing the August ballot issue for funding a communications campaign needed to reach voters. -

"The closed-door presentation . . . shows how Republican legislative leaders backing the campaign plan . . . to raise \$6 million to bankroll their effort . . . by leaning on Capitol Square lobbyists during budget season, a pivotal time for lobbyists as they seek to add their myriad priorities to the massive spending bill."

Further undermining LaRose's claims that the August ballot issue was being done to provide protections against "special interests and out-of-state activists" is information released by the Columbus Dispatch in an April 27, 2023 article.

The newspaper disclosed that an out-of-state (Illinois) billionaire activist, Richard Uihlein, gave \$1 million to a PAC controlled by these Ohio politicians to help fund the August campaign to supposedly protect Ohio citizens from "out-of-state activists"(like Richard Uihlein)

And thanks to the media, Ohio citizens learned the truthful reasons why Ohio politicians introduced the August special election ballot issue.

According to a May 10, 2023 article by Jo Ingles and Karen Kasler in the Statehouse News Bureau, the August ballot issue's primary sponsor in the Ohio House of Representatives was Brian Stewart (R-Ashville, Oh). Stewart explained, in a private letter to members of his political party, that the purpose of this legislation was to block two upcoming citizen-led constitutional amendments. One of the constitutional amendments that would be blocked was the amendment planned for November 2023 that would restore reproductive rights to women in the state. And the second constitutional amendment that would be blocked was the citizen-led ballot issue being planned for November 2024 that would, if passed as Issue 1, finally ban gerrymandered election districts in the state.

In spite of the multi-million dollar media campaign organized by Ohio politicians for the August 2023 special election, voters in the state overwhelmingly rejected this ballot issue in order to protect their right to place a citizens-led constitutional amendment on the ballot.

And in November 2024, a citizens-led constitutional amendment titled Citizens Not Politicians has been placed on the ballot as Issue 1 in order to provide Ohio voters a chance to finally ban the practice of gerrymandered election districts in the state.

About the author-Sanford Lubin is a retired publisher and senior editor of an Ohio media corporation. He is focused on initiatives supporting constitutional rights, the rule of law, and the protection of democracy.



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# ISSUE 1

## Vote "Yes" and Let's Put Power in the Hands of Citizens, Not Politicians

By State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson

Guest Column

Why have 38,000 Lucas County voters been unable to vote for their Ohio state Senate candidate for the last two elections? Politician-drawn state maps.

Why did citizens in all 88 counties in the state of Ohio gather signatures in the rain, sleet and snow to stop these politicians from continuing to draw unconstitutional maps? Because Ohioans, regardless of party label, believe in fairness.

Why did the "Citizens Not Politicians" campaign turn in over 730,000 signatures to put Issue 1 on the November ballot? The petition gatherers believe that power belongs with the people and not politicians.

Why were there no members of the public at either of the two Ohio Ballot Board meetings to offer support for the ballot language that the majority members adopted? Because politicians are on the Ohio Ballot Board and wrote the ballot language to mislead Ohioans.

Why did the majority members of the Ohio Ballot Board create misleading ballot language to trick voters on Issue 1? Simply put, because politicians don't trust voters!

There is a saying that "power begets power." The November 5 election is truly a monumental time in our state; this election decides whether power is in the hands of the citizens or politicians. Not to diminish the national election, but Issue 1 is critically important for the future of the state of Ohio.

On November 5, Ohioans will vote on this citizen-led initiative to correct the mistakes that were made in 2015 and 2018, along with electing a president and other candidates. But removing control of the map-drawing process from politicians and creating a citizen redistricting commission is critical if we truly believe in a fair, representative democracy.

We all should remember that the Ohio Supreme Court ruled seven times that the 2022 legislative and congressional maps drawn by politicians were unconstitutional. Even though citizens were given the opportunity to present various versions of state and federal legislative districts, their maps were rejected by politicians on the Ohio Redistricting Commission. Furthermore, the Ohio Supreme Court said that the politician-drawn maps did not meet the rules and directives of the 2018 laws.

In 2022, students at Jones Leadership Academy were given the assignment to draw their own state and federal district maps in accordance with the same rules that the Ohio Redistricting Commission is supposed to follow. You could not imagine how stunned the students were when they witnessed

what the "adults" did! Even high school juniors working on a school assignment could not believe how drastically the rules were violated.

The critics of this ballot initiative would have Ohio voters believe that the 15-member commission would have no oversight. This is not true! The process for becoming part of the commission ensures that members would not be so intent on creating districts to ensure their party's politician has an unfair advantage. There will be an open application and application review process, along with eligibility requirements independent of current party politics.

The ballot initiative would also mandate that the public have a meaningful opportunity to review the proposed maps and provide input BEFORE they are voted on. This is in contrast to the final 2022 and current maps, which were voted on without public feedback or input.

Other portions of the ballot initiative highlight why I will be voting "yes" on Issue 1. But rather than rely on the misleading language that the Ohio Ballot Board majority members created, please read the actual petition language that 730,000 voters signed to put this question before the citizens.

As the students told me at Jones Leadership Academy, fairness is fundamental!

State Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo) is a former Toledo councilmember, Toledo mayor, Lucas County elections official and state representative.



Ohio State Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson speaks about Project 2025 and Issue 1

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General Election 2024 • General Election 2024 • General Election 2024 • General Election 2024 • General Election 2024 General Election 2024

# Ken Walz, Candidate for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas

Ken Walz, a candidate for the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas, is a senior assistant prosecutor with the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office with 20 years of experience in criminal prosecution, criminal defense and medical malpractice defense.

"I've observed courts over the last 20 years of practice – I've learned what a court should be and should not be," he says of his decision to run for a seat on the bench.

A Toledo native, Walz is a graduate of Central Catholic High School. He earned an associate's degree in respiratory care technology, a bachelor's degree in biology and a law degree all from the University of Toledo.

Walz emphasizes that he would like to "make my community better" and says that he can do that in part, as a judge, by helping to reduce the rate of incarceration. There are alternative solutions to incarceration, he notes. "Where appropriate there are non-custodial services that can keep individuals in the community so they can work and [the community] can avoid the ripple effect of even short-term incarceration."

In addition to his longtime legal work, Walz is also a registered respiratory therapist at St. Vincent Medical Center. Considering his work in both the legal and medical professions, it is perhaps not surprising that he is an advocate of establishing a mental health docket in the Court of Common Pleas.

"I have been working for 20 years in the criminal justice system and I've said the system is broken. [A mental health docket] is one path to an improved system. Mental health needs to have more of a spotlight and is a way the court can help [reduce] recidivism."

Walz is a candidate for the open seat created by Judge Linda Jenning's retirement. He is endorsed by the Lucas County Democratic Party, Toledo Fire, UAW, Teamsters, LiUNA Local 500 and the Toledo Federation of Teachers, to name a few.

The courts can also be improved, says Walz, by the inclusion of more even-keeled judges on the bench.



Candidate for Judge  
Ken Walz

"I've seen elements of bias and rudeness," he notes. "My skillset and my character of fairness and equality make me well qualified to be a judge."

# Amy Stoner, Candidate for Judge in Juvenile Court

By Amy Stoner for Judge

Amy Stoner is running for Juvenile Judge in Lucas County. She has 24 years of experience as a Family Law Attorney, Public Defender, Guardian Ad Litem and former Magistrate in Juvenile Court.

Her unique experience gives her a profound understanding of the challenges families face. Amy brings a forward-thinking vision, with a focus on rehabilitation, ending the delinquency cycle, and creating opportunities for youth.

She is dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of Lucas County children and families and committed to pursuing justice for all. This Election, vote Amy Stoner for Juvenile Court Judge. Visit [amystonerforjudge.com](http://amystonerforjudge.com)



Candidate for Judge Amy  
Stoner

# Port Authority Has Issue 28 on the Ballot

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority plays a huge role in seaports and airports, but it's much more than a port. The Port Authority drives economic growth in the county, bringing new jobs, projects and partnerships to the area.

A yes vote on Issue 28 will help keep the momentum going. This is a levy renewal – not a new tax. The recent change in proposed property valuation by the Lucas County auditor will not increase the Port Levy that residents have been paying, as the levy renewal is generally based on 1994 property valuations.

Vote yes on Issue 28. Visit [vote4port.com](http://vote4port.com).

# The Toledo Lucas County Library Has Issue 24 on the Ballot

Over the last several weeks, Lucas County homeowners have been receiving updated valuations of their property which has led voters to ask: If Issue 24 passes, will the cost of this bond increase due to my changing property values?

As volunteers of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library, we welcome these questions to uphold our values of transparency! Again, Issue 24 is a bond issue that can only be used for infrastructure improvements to our countywide system.

The Library's bond issue is for a set dollar amount of \$153 million, which is written into the ballot language. This means that, even if property values rise, the Library can never exceed that dollar amount. The 1-mill bond on this year's ballot is based on current property values, meaning that a homeowner

...continued on page 21

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# Lucas County Commissioner Candidate Debate

By Tricia Hall  
The Truth Reporter

Lucas County residents, elected and appointed officials and media filled the first floor of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library's downtown location for the 2024 Lucas County Commissioners Debate on Thursday, October 17, 2024.

WTOL 11 anchor Jeff Smith moderated the debate between incumbent Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken and challenger Tom Waniewski; then WTOL 11 anchor Caylee Kirby moderated the debate between incumbent Lucas County Commissioner Anita Lopez and challenger John Rozic.

Questions were selected in advance from WTOL viewers and in-person audience members. The event was organized and supported by Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated Xi Lambda Chapter of Toledo, WTOL and YWCA of Northwest Ohio.

The Gerken and Waniewski debate covered county spending and canine care control. The candidates both addressed economic development and the county jail.

County-focused economic development

"The increase in jobs were government jobs. We need to get workforce development dollars. I met with the Dorr Street Coalition, because they were interested in workforce development dollars to bring jobs back. I promise to put workforce development dollars to good use in the Dorr Street area. If we lower sales tax, we can bring people here," said Waniewski.

"The county has spent the workforce development funding, we work with the workforce development board. We haven't returned any money. We are

... continued on page 11



LC Commissioner Anita Lopez and John Rozic



Tom Waniewski and LC Commissioner Pete Gerken

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Lucas County Commissioner... continued from page 10

careful stewards of the money, but we don't give people money without a plan. We reimburse when the work is done," said Gerken.

The Lopez/Rozic debate also touched on economic development.

"We have some good investments in Toledo like the Metroparks, beautiful libraries and Walleye, but we're losing jobs. We should grow in employment, yet the Democrats have been in charge for years. Lucas County is in a great geographic area, there are two major highways and an airport, but all of these things are not being used to its fullest potential. Just focusing on isolated examples of where economic development has happened doesn't bring jobs," said Rozic.

"We faced a tough challenge during Covid, which is why I wanted to join the Lucas County Commissioners. I wanted to help businesses grow, to address the need for experience and knowledge of the county. The three of us may be Democrats, but we are all different. We make this county better," said Lopez.

County jail

"The jail is tough to build, every county in this state is struggling with jail funding. We're not spending more money on the jail because we're under contract with a fixed cost to deliver what is needed. We are waiting on the jail to lower its operating costs, but haven't received that plan yet," said Gerken.

"The jail isn't a good plan, it was poor planning when they wanted it in South Toledo and in North Toledo, the communities didn't want it. You would have known that if you talked to them," said Waniewski.

The Lopez and Rozic debate covered political careers, plans for the future and experience. The candidates both addressed economic development and the payout of Mr. Urrutia, Lopez's former assistant.

In 2024, newly appointed Commissioner Lopez's former assistant received a settlement from the county because of a unprofessional conduct investigation.

"I took responsibility for my actions. I know that I must do better. I was under stress and acted unprofessionally. I have worked on that, had time to reflect and rest. I am working tirelessly to make Lucas County better. That

incident is in my past and can't be allowed to serve as a distraction. I am ready to work for you for the betterment of the entire county. That short window in time is not a reflection of my work," said Lopez.

"That was a concerning situation that developed earlier this year, and I appreciate her candor. The county hired an investigator to look into this, to produce a report. A report was issued, and we never saw the full report because it was redacted. I don't know fully what happened. I don't know all of the elements of the story. The county commissioners investigated themselves and we don't have a full report to read," said Rozic.

In addition to the Lucas County Commissioner race, residents are voting for United States President, Ohio Supreme Court Justice, Judge of Court of Common Pleas, Congressional House and Senate seats, Toledo City County and other uncontested races.

Early in-person voting is held at Lucas County Early Vote Center located at 3737 W Sylvania Ave, suite 121 is available until Sunday, November 3, 2024. Visit <https://www.lucascountyohiovotes.gov/> for specific hours and absentee voting information.



Polls are open Tues., Nov. 5th from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Need a ride to your polling location, call the Lucas County Republican Party Headquarters at 419-481-8467

For more info visit: LCRP.US or "Like" us on Facebook



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Megan E. Shanahan for Ohio Supreme Court shanahanforohio.com



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Daniel R. Hawkins for Ohio Supreme Court hawkinsforjustice.com

# ISSUE 19

## TPS Requests a Yes Vote on Issue 19

Several dozen local church pastors, community leaders, past city mayors, on Thursday, October 24 at the Tabernacle Church to urge citizens to cast a "yes" vote for Issue 19 on the November 5 general election ballot.

"Issue 19 is focused on the belief that every student is prepared to succeed," said Tabernacle Pastor Calvin Sweeney as he opened up the press conference.

Issue 19 is a 5.8 mill new money request to support district operations and provide ongoing maintenance to buildings and facilities and the initial renovation of the Scott Park campus. It is the first new money request Toledo Public Schools has sought in 11 years.

"It is time for a resurrection," said TPS Superintendent Romules Durant, EdD, of the renovations that will occur at Scott Park including "education, recreation and residential."

Durant, who was recently received recognition as the 2024 Urban Educator of the Year at the Council of the Great City Schools 68th annual fall conference, attributed his award to TPS' ongoing ability to innovate while working with community partners "to create education opportunities" without consistently asking the public for more funds.

"We're excited about the innovation and the revitalization of Scott Park," he said, noting that Scott Park had been closed for 25 years.

"We have the opportunity to make things great in the city of Toledo," he added.

The campus will include three new magnet high schools that will allow students to matriculate from seventh grade to bachelor's degree. The project includes partnerships with Owens Community College and the University of Toledo both of which signed a letter of intent with TPS for the project in February of this year.



Scott Park drawing



Romules Durant, TPS Superintendent, explains the Issue 19 levy request

...continued on page 17

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**Anita**

**Lucas County Commissioner**

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# Steadfast Leadership and the Fight for Black Wealth: Inspiration from Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Congressman James Clyburn

By Kathryn M. Tucker

Guest Column

“The policies of the past may have built the walls of segregation, but it is our responsibility to tear them down and build bridges instead.” —The Color of Law

This reminder from Richard Rothstein captures a powerful truth: the systemic inequalities that hinder Black wealth in America were created by design, but they can be dismantled through deliberate action and steadfast leadership. Leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Shirley Chisholm, and John Lewis understood that true change is a vision that spans generations.

For Black communities, economic opportunity has often been stifled by barriers that limit access to resources and perpetuate cycles of disparity. Yet, with leaders who are unafraid to challenge these structures, there is hope.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (Dem – OH) and Congressman James Clyburn (Dem – SC) have picked up this mantle, carrying forward the legacies of those who paved the way, and continuing the fight for equity, opportunity, and progress. Combined, they have over 80 years of service in Congress, exemplifying the power of persistence in creating meaningful change.

Over the past 15 years, I've spent my career working in the financial industry, where I've seen firsthand the impact that equitable access to resources can have on communities. I have experience across various financial institutions, including banks, Community Development Fi-

ancial Institutions (CDFIs), and HUD-approved housing counseling agencies. Now, as an executive in the credit union industry, I am part of an effort to make financial services more accessible and fair.

Back in the early 2000s, I discovered my passion for justice when I joined the Toledo Fair Housing Center's board of directors. During that time, and throughout my work in nonprofits, I learned about the systems that cripple Black wealth—systems built to exclude, restrict, and deny. I knew I wanted to be part of the solution, and this realization led me on a journey to law school, where I will soon graduate this December.

I wanted the power to not just understand these systems, but to change

... continued on page 15



U.S. Reps James Clyburn and Marcy Kaptur and Kathryn Tucker

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*Steadfast Leadership... continued from page 14*

them. Because real change starts with legislation. The legislature is where systems form and where systems can be dismantled and rebuilt. But the key is sifting through politicians to find those who care about the communities they serve. How can you tell? As the Bible reminds us, "By their fruit, you will recognize them (Matthew 7:16)."

My quest for justice and desire to uplift my community led me into a dynamic sit-down interview with two powerhouses in Congress: Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Congressman James Clyburn. Through their stories, I gained a deeper understanding of the dedication it takes to create meaningful change.

Congresswoman Kaptur has been serving Ohio's 9th congressional district since 1983, earning her the title of the longest-serving woman in U.S. congressional history. She's a leader with a vision that cuts across generations and a tenacity that has fueled economic revitalization across Ohio's industrial heartland. When you're in the room with Kaptur, you will likely hear her say, "What America makes and grows, grows and makes America." Her words echo across fields and factories, emphasizing her belief that nurturing and investing in growth—whether it's crops in the soil or industries in cities—creates prosperity for the nation.

Congresswoman Kaptur has had a hand in my family's journey to achieving wealth. I had the pleasure of moderating a panel discussion earlier this year that was geared towards minority business owners. She and her team brought in resources, including the regional director of the Small Business Administration (SBA). I was there to moderate, but what Kaptur didn't know is that my husband and I had recently started a business. Entrepreneurship is challenging. Our wine company, Toledo's Share, was beginning to seem like a distant dream—we would be one of the only, if not the only, Black-owned wine manufacturing companies in the state of Ohio.

Kaptur said something that ignited a spark in me. She discussed the importance of business owners, acknowledged their struggles, and said, "Listen—if you have a great idea or you know someone with a great idea, turn it into a business! Go for it!" She went on to provide success stories

and connect us to resources. This was the extra jolt I needed. I thought to myself, "Marcy is going to take care of us—she is going to make sure our business doesn't fail."

I went home and said this to my husband. So, we kept going and recently secured SBA funding for our business through Huntington Bank, a resource made available at that forum. We need leaders like her who provide confidence and instill trust in our communities when we doubt our own callings.

Then there's Congressman James Clyburn, who has represented South Carolina's 6th congressional district since 1993. Known for his instrumental role in civil rights and economic development, as well as his dedication to equity and justice, Clyburn has been a driving force behind significant policy changes. He played a pivotal role in the passage of the Affordable Care Act, a victory achieved through years of advocacy, negotiation, and unyielding effort. His work to secure federal funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) highlights his commitment to creating opportunities for future generations.

When I interviewed Congressman Clyburn, he took us on a journey through time, beginning with the Emancipation Proclamation and the Great Betrayal of 1877. He spoke about the harsh realities of Jim Crow, and how even the passage of Social Security excluded upwards of 65 percent of Black workers from benefits, with retirement set at age 65 when the average life expectancy for Black Americans was just 59. He traced

*... continued on page 16*



*Kathryn and Ang Tucker*

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If we do our part and show up to the polls, we will make history (again)!

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**Election Day is November 5th.**  
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Photo Credit: National Archives (Top)



Steadfast Leadership... continued from page 15

the struggle through to the 2008 financial crisis, noting, "Black people have not accumulated wealth because the biggest source of wealth is your home." The economic crash devastated Black homeownership, stripping many families of the opportunity to build generational wealth. Clyburn's participation in the 2009 Recovery and Investment Act was an effort to restore what was lost and create a path forward.

Despite the rollback of affirmative action and the challenges facing DEI initiatives, which he describes as being "on life support," Clyburn continues to push for solutions to further his vision of Black economic empowerment. His commitment to change is commendable, and his understanding of history gives him the depth to address these issues head-on.

Statistics on Black wealth and homeownership bring to light the importance of their work. Black homeownership rates are significantly lower than those of white Americans, with a gap of over 30 percentage points. In 2022, the Black homeownership rate was 44.1 percent, compared to 74.5 percent for white households. This disparity reflects deeper systemic issues that limit economic mobility and wealth accumulation.

The racial wealth gap remains stark, with the median net worth of Black families being less than 15 percent of that of white families. These numbers make it clear why leaders like Clyburn and Kaptur are so essential—they understand that building wealth and equity starts with fair and inclusive policies, long-term investments, and a steadfast commitment to change.

During our conversation, I asked Congressman Clyburn why he supports Congresswoman Kaptur. He recalled their early days in Congress, saying she stood out for her depth and focus. While many politicians chase headlines, Kaptur has always been different. "She really sticks with an issue," he said, "and is committed to seeing it through." In an environment that often prioritizes quick wins and easy sound bites, her perseverance is a breath of fresh air.

For Black voters, Kaptur's approach should resonate. She doesn't just advocate for economic growth; she works to make sure that growth is

inclusive and that Black communities are not left behind. Whether she's advocating for affordable housing, pushing for higher wages, or ensuring infrastructure investments benefit underserved communities, she is building pathways for wealth-building and financial security for all. Her focus on long-term solutions and her ability to see the bigger picture make her a leader we cannot afford to lose.

The world needs fresh perspectives, but it also needs the wisdom that comes from years of dedication. Leaders like Marcy Kaptur and James Clyburn have shown us that real, lasting change takes time, patience, and a commitment to the long game. As we continue to push for progress, let's take inspiration from their steadfastness. The work we do today will shape the world for tomorrow, just as their work has done for us. Let's be bold, let's be innovative, but above all, let's be patient and persistent, knowing that the seeds we plant today will yield a future of prosperity for generations to come.

As I look ahead to my own legal career, I'm reminded of the words of one of my heroes, Thurgood Marshall: "Sometimes history takes things into its own hands." Progress is inevitable when we confront challenges head-on, armed with the determination to bend history's course toward justice and equality. But progress also requires action. The future prosperity of this election rests in your hands. Will you carry the torch?

This writing is dedicated to my mother, Annette McGrath, and the values she instilled in me to forge a path towards change.



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur

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# Concerned About Democracy in 2024? Your School Board Could Hold the Key

By Ethan Ashley

Education has always been a contentious issue, but as we approach the 2024 elections, it's become ground zero for broader cultural and political clashes. Book bans targeting diverse and inclusive materials are on the rise, and restrictive gag orders are silencing classroom discussions on critical topics like race, gender, and American history. With the conservative agenda of Project 2025 gaining traction, the threat to both democracy and public education has never been more urgent. In times like these, it's easy to feel powerless—but, as citizens, we can't afford to disengage. The fight for our country's future begins at the local level, particularly with our school boards.

Though often overlooked, school boards are the backbone of our democratic process, influencing the education of nearly 90% of America's children who attend public schools. Their decisions determine everything from which books make it into classrooms to the curriculum that teaches civics and voter education. They are the gatekeepers of academic freedom and have a crucial role in shaping young people's understanding of democracy. School boards are responsible for dismantling the remnants of systemic racism in education and laying the foundation for future citizens who will either uphold or dismantle democratic values.

That's why who sits on our school boards is so critical. Diverse representation on these boards ensures a variety of perspectives, particularly when it comes to identifying inequities and implementing inclusive policies. However, school boards in the U.S. were designed in a different era, for a different demographic. Historically led by white, male landowners, school boards have not evolved to reflect the diversity of the communities they now serve. Today, although public school students are more than 55% students of color, a 2022 survey by School Board Partners found that 64% of school board members are white, highlighting a significant gap in representation.

This May celebrated the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the decision that outlawed segregation based on race in public schools. At the time of the ruling, roughly

90 percent of students were white. Since then, public school demographics in America have continued to morph into being more racially and ethnically diverse: less than half of students are white, meaning that about 55 percent of public school students identify as minority populations, with more than a quarter being Hispanic, and nearly 15 percent being Black. These numbers don't even account for non-English native language speakers, students with disabilities, students identifying as part of the LGBTQ community, or students in varying socioeconomic backgrounds.



Ethan Ashley

Across the country this fall, people will go to the polls and cast votes that will have a major impact on the future of our country. With over 21 thousand seats up for election this year, SBP is among the groups working to ensure voters realize the importance of school board elections specifically. The reality is that the tensions we're witnessing around education will continue to compound—but we have the collective power to choose a better future by electing a more diverse candidate pool who will advocate for policies and procedures that meet the needs of students, no matter their background. By nature and design, school boards were established by the people, for the people. It's time to bring our school boards into the present and deliver on that founding promise. The future of democracy depends on it.

Ethan Ashley is the Co-CEO & Cofounder of School Board Partners, an organization that connects emerging, inspired elected community leaders serving on local school boards with the training, support, and mentorship needed to successfully push for high quality school systems.

For additional information, visit: <https://schoolboardpartners.org>.

## Issue 19... continued from page 12

The three new magnet schools will include:

1. College of Business Academy
2. College of Education and Social Services Academy – (training teachers, school counselors and fire fighters etc.)
3. Construction and Architectural Academy

The \$100 million Scott Park project will include a fitness center, dining hall, recreational athletic dome, administrative suites, outdoor and indoor construction training facilities, three academies, child-care center, ministry office, residential facilities and fishing pond, among other amenities. The campus will also be a part of a two-park system that is connected to Ottawa Park via the bike trail.

An \$84 million annual return to the community is anticipated from the project via the new opportunities and work being done at Scott Park. It will bring an estimated 3,000 jobs to the campus.

"Yes, we do need this," said former Mayor Carty Finkbeiner. "We can't say children are number one in our lives unless we help them get the training and education they need.

"This is about an investment in kids and turning the community in a positive way," said former Mayor Mike Bell. "This is all about the future – let's just move forward and get Issue 19 passed."

"This is about the fact that [TPS] has been good stewards of your money," added state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson of the fact that the school

district has not sought new money in such a long time.

Issue 19 is a request for a 5.8 mill bond and levy that would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about an additional \$70 per year for the next 30 years for the bond and about \$133 for the levy for the next five years.

Two mills would allow for a \$99 million bond fund, half of which will go to develop the complex into "Scott Park University." The other 3.8 mills will be new operational money to raise \$10.3 million a year. Toledo has only the seventh highest total millage of the 10 school districts in Lucas County.

## Black Women... continued from page 5

ate online attacks faced by women of color candidates. Alarmingly, more than 1 in 5 tweets targeted at Asian-American and African-American women candidates contained offensive language. Even more concerning, African-American women candidates were found to be targeted with hate speech at rates up to 18 times higher than their white male counterparts.

Despite these obstacles, highly qualified Black women are poised to make leadership breakthroughs on the ballot this year. In Maryland and Delaware, U.S. Reps. Angela Alsobrooks and Lisa Blunt-Rochester are respectively poised to win their current bids for U.S. Senate. Their near-certain victories would make it the first time that Black women simultaneously serve in the

... continued on page 23

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# Kids Books on Voting by various authors

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Truth Contributor

So, who will you vote for?

That's easy: nobody yet, because you're still a kid – but you have your opinions. Even so, how much do you know about this important grown-up job? Learn more by reading these three great books on voting...

c. 2024  
various publishers  
\$18.99 each  
various page counts

It was a cold and rainy early November day when Mama said they had to go out. They had a job to do “that, by definition, no one can do for us...” In *Show Up and Vote* by Ani Di Franco, illustrations by Rachele Baker (Penguin Workshop), the job is done in a big, official building that's staffed by friendly people. Mama knew a lot of folks there because a lot of people come to vote, and “no matter the weather we do this together...”

Step by step, this book takes little readers from beginning to end of the voting process, showing them how important the “job” is and the many people involved. Adults will love the pride that oozes from these words; kids ages three to five will love the artwork.

Once was a time when the right to vote was shaky, at best. If your child needs to know that history, then *The Day Madear Voted* by Wade Hudson, illustrated by Don Tate (Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin) is the book to find.

It's 1969, and Charlie and Ralph's Madear has been looking forward to this day for most of her life. Up until then, Black people had been turned away from the voting booth, but on this day, the boys' mom dresses up and heads out, taking them along. This is important!

It was “just like being at church” because people were dressed nicely and

they were very excited! Most of them never thought they'd see the day they'd be allowed to vote. When it was over, Madear came out of the booth with the biggest smile on her face! Ralph and Charlie asked her what it felt like, and her words peek into the future.

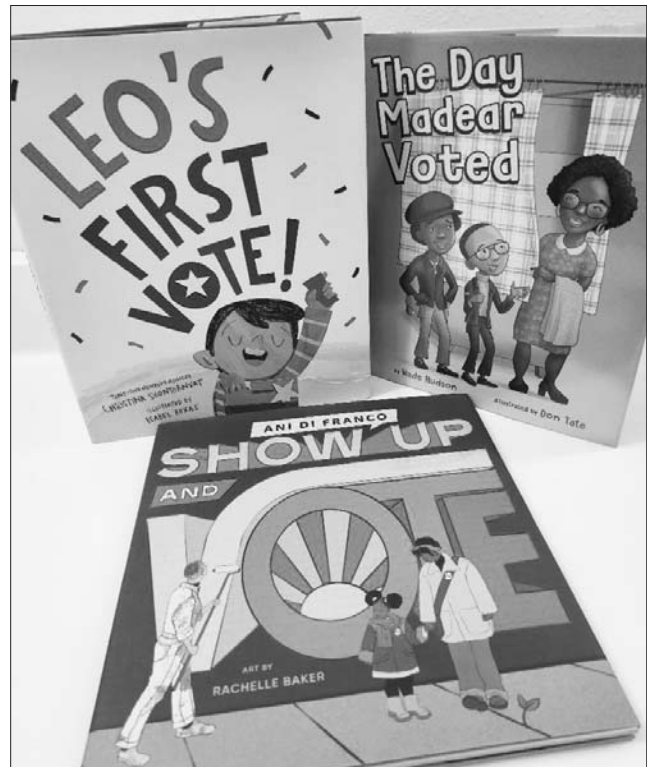
This look at a chapter in American history is perfect for kids who are trying to grasp the realities and processes of voting, and the act's importance. Your five-to-seven-year-old will love it.

Here's another story of a big milestone: *Leo's First Vote!* by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Isabel Roxas (Knopf).

Leo's Dad just became an American citizen and this fall, he'll be able to cast a vote for the President! Leo knows how great this is, and he's very excited – but there are a lot of things he doesn't understand. His teacher holds a mock election, which helps. Leo's father helps, too, as he tries to learn all about the issues that are important. Leo listens as the adults debate politics and oops! his dad almost didn't get registered, which is essential.

For parents of kids ages five-to-seven who want to understand the process, so is this book.

If these aren't enough to satisfy your young reader, check with your librarian or bookseller for more. In this election year, these books should get your vote!



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# Immigrants Are Fueling Economic Growth, Revitalizing Communities in Great Lakes States

Special to The Truth

*Upwardly Global and the American Immigration Council Find Immigration is Keeping Workforce Viable in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Upstate New York Immigration is Key to Fueling Population Growth, Maintaining Talent for Manufacturing and Health Care, and Supporting Local Governments and Economies*

According to a new report, from Upwardly Global and the American Immigration Council, immigrants are key to the economic success and future viability of communities across the Great Lakes State's region.

The report, "Building Community and Fueling Growth: The Role of Immigrants in Reviving the Great Lakes Region," analyzed communities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and upstate New York. It found that immigration was key to fueling population growth, maintaining a viable workforce for critical industries like manufacturing and healthcare, and bolstering local economies. Specifically, the report found that:

\*

Immigrants to the Great Lakes States' have fueled the region's population growth, offsetting rural decline, and keeping the workforce viable.

\*

The immigrant population of the region increased by 15.9 percent between 2010 to 2022, while the U.S.-born population increased by just 0.3 percent.

As a result, immigrants were responsible for 78.5 percent of the region's population growth during that time.

\*

In rural areas, the immigrant population grew by 5.5 percent between 2010 and 2022, while the U.S.-born population shrank by 3.1 percent. While immigrants comprised just 2.2 percent of the rural population in 2022, without them the entire population of the rural Great Lakes region would have decreased by 3.0 percent, or 361,300 people.

\*

Just 61.7 percent of the U.S.-born residents in the region were of working age in 2022, a share that has continued to drop as the population ages. By contrast, 78.2 percent of the area's foreign-born residents were of working age, making them vital to the region's economic vitality.

\*

Immigrants drive job growth. Each foreign-born resident creates 1.2 additional jobs in rural counties, keeping businesses alive and stabilizing housing markets

\*

Immigrants hold voting power. Over 2.6M naturalized immigrants could be the margin of victory in key 2024 swing states.

\*

Immigrants to the Great Lakes States' have brought talent to the region - serving critical roles in the manufacturing industry, and an outsize role in providing health care services.

\*

The share of foreign-born residents in the Great Lakes region with at least a bachelor's degree rose 6.2 percentage points between 2010 and 2022, to 39.0 percent. About 19.3 percent of foreign-born residents held an advanced degree.

\*

Immigrants continued to work in large numbers at hard-to-fill factory jobs, occupying 42.5 percent of meat processing jobs and 30.8 percent of hand-packer jobs.

\*

Immigrants also comprised 16.4 percent of the STEM workforce at a time when manufacturing industries—including aircraft and pharmaceutical manufacturing—are in need of high-skill workers like physical scientists, logisticians, and software developers.

\*

In 2022, immigrants made up 27.8 percent of the region's physicians, 20.6 percent of its surgeons, and nearly 17 percent of both its dentists and personal care aides, despite comprising just 7.8 percent of the population.

\*

Immigrants to the Great Lakes States' are driving new small business creation and contributing billions of dollars to local tax revenues.

\*

The number of self-employed immigrants rose by 45.8 percent between

... continued on page 23

# Vote For SENIOR CITIZENS

# ISSUE 29

Renew Your Support For Our Seniors

Paid for by the Senior Citizens Committee

## A Grant up to \$1,500 towards your Mortgage Closing Costs!<sup>1</sup>

### DO YOU QUALIFY?

- Purchase of a primary residence located within State Bank's lending area<sup>2</sup>
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<sup>1</sup>Actual amount applied at closing.

<sup>2</sup>Property must be located within one of the following counties: Allen Ohio, Allen Indiana, Defiance, Delaware, Franklin, Hancock, Lucas, Madison, Union, Williams, or Wood.

<sup>3</sup>Borrower income must be below 80% of the area median income, or property must be located in a low- to moderate-income census tract, as updated annually by the FFIEC (Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council).



## POSITION AVAILABLE TENANT ADVOCATE

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), a non-profit regional law firm with a long history of representing people living on low incomes in Ohio in achieving equal justice and opportunity, seeks a Tenant Advocate supporting the Housing and Community Economic Development practice group's access to counsel project providing tenant representation in eviction actions. This position will be based out of ABLE's Dayton office.

### About ABLE

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) is a nonprofit law firm established over 50 years ago to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities have the same access to justice as people and companies that can afford to retain an attorney. ABLE and its partner law firm, Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO), are the only law firms available for comprehensive legal representation in non-criminal matters for more than 425,000 people living, working, and raising their families in poverty in Northwest and West Central Ohio. ABLE advocates for – and with – financially disadvantaged individuals and communities to effectuate just and equitable policy changes that address the structural causes of poverty and to protect their right to fairness and justice in the legal system.

### The Opportunity

The Tenant Advocate will:

- **Support Legal Representation:** Assist attorneys and clients in the legal process by facilitating communication, collecting factual information and documentation, and advocating for client needs.

- **Client Access to Services:** Ensure clients have access to ABLE services by engaging with them, facilitating referrals, and coordinating with external organizations.

- **Crisis Prevention and Resolution:** Provide immediate crisis prevention and resolution strategies to address client emergencies.

- **Community Outreach:** Conduct outreach presentations to client groups and partner organizations to raise awareness of ABLE services and promote community engagement.

- **Relationship Building with Service Providers:** Develop and maintain relationships with service providers to facilitate effective referrals to and from ABLE and other community organizations.

- **Professional Development Coordination:** Coordinate and facilitate staff training on topics such as poverty, working with vulnerable populations, and cultural competency to enhance service delivery.

- **Supervision of Social Work Students:** Provide supervision and mentorship to social work students during their field placements at ABLE, ensuring they gain practical experience.

- **Collaboration with Legal Advocates:** Collaborate effectively with legal advocates and other professionals to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, including those with no income, limited English proficiency, and mental health consumers.

- **Client Advocacy and Equal Justice Commitment:** Uphold the principle of equal justice by treating clients, staff, and the public with dignity and respect, while maintaining strict confidentiality regarding sensitive matters.

- **Program Policies and Procedures:** Implement ABLE policies and procedures effectively and ensure that program guidelines are followed to meet the organization's goals.

- **Cultural Competency:** Demonstrate an appreciation for diverse cultures and communities by working equitably with clients and colleagues from varied backgrounds.

- **Independence and Team Work:** Work effectively with a team consisting of a staff attorney, paralegal, community organizer and administrative assistant to stabilize housing for clients and support community driven housing initiatives.

### The successful candidate must have the following skills and experience:

1. Bachelor's degree in social work or commensurate experience required; Master's Degree preferred.
2. 0-3 years of experience in social work preferred
3. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team, with a high level of initiative and creativity in problem-solving.
4. Experience working with limited income clients and knowledge of local social services is required.
5. Must possess excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills, with the ability to handle and prioritize multiple tasks and deadlines.
6. Computer proficiency in MS Office applications is necessary.
7. Spanish language skills are preferred.
8. Must hold a valid driver's license, auto insurance, and be willing to travel throughout the service area.

### Compensation, Benefits, and Work Location

ABLE is committed to providing an equitable work environment, including a commitment to pay equity. The starting annual salary range for this position is \$50,600-\$68,400 depending on experience. Comprehensive fringe benefits, including health insurance, supplemental language compensation, annual leave, and paid parental leave.

**To Apply:** Please visit <https://www.ablelaw.org/careers-with-able> to submit your application. Position will remain open until filled.

**ABLE is an Equal Opportunity Employer and places a high value on diversity in our workplace, including diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. We strive to create an environment welcoming to all individuals and we encourage applications from individuals traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Applicants requiring accommodation for the interview/application process should contact the recruitment coordinator at [hrteam@ablelaw.org](mailto:hrteam@ablelaw.org).**

## MANAGER OF SENIOR SERVICES

Neighborhood Health Association (NHA) is dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors in our community. We are committed to fostering a supportive environment that promotes health, well-being, and social connection for individuals aged 55 and over. As the Manager of Senior Services, you will play a pivotal role in developing and implementing multi-service programs tailored to the medical, cultural and social services needs of our seniors (age 55 and over) throughout the organization. You will serve as a key liaison collaborating with community stakeholders and representing NHA at planning meeting with the Area Office on Aging and other relevant organizations, and make recommendations for the implementation and expansion of programming to the Executive Management Team.

### Key Responsibilities:

- **Program Development:** Identify the evolving needs of seniors through demographic analysis and market research, including focus groups. Propose new programs and enhancements to existing services to address barriers faced by our seniors.

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Build and maintain partnerships with community organizations to ensure comprehensive support for our senior population.

- **Budget Management:** Prepare and manage the departmental operating budget, ensuring timely reporting and adherence to financial constraints.

- **Project Management:** Lead projects with a focus on delivering measurable outcomes, utilizing key data for continuous quality improvement initiatives.

### Job Qualifications:

- Minimum of **2 years of management experience** in a leadership role serving seniors..

- Relevant training in **gerontology, recreation**, or a related field, or equivalent experience in developing and implementing senior-focused programs.

- Oversee the daily operations and fiscal management for two Senior Center locations, including preparing and managing the departmental budget and the timely submission of required reports.

- Proven ability in **budget preparation and management**, along with experience in project management.

- Flexibility to adapt work hours as needed to support senior programs, typically following a Monday to Friday schedule.

- A genuine passion for serving seniors and enhancing their quality of life.

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to understanding and respecting the diverse cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds of our seniors in a community health environment.

**We are a drug-free workplace, and an Equal Opportunity Employer. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package, including health insurance, paid time off in addition to 11 paid holidays.**

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**Our Mission:** *Through our exceptional health care services, we empower and educate, aggressively working to eliminate health care inequities, while supporting personal responsibility for one's own health regardless of the ability to pay*

## INVITATION FOR BIDS BOILER REPLACEMENT AT PORT LAWRENCE HOMES IFB24-B014

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive bids for **Boiler Replacement at Port Lawrence Homes in accordance with IFB24-B014**. Received in accordance with law until **October 31, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET**. For documents: [www.lucasmha.org](http://www.lucasmha.org); 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



*Black Women... continued from page 17*

chamber and add decisively to the small number of Black women (just 3 to date) who have been U.S. senators.

The number of major cities with Black women at the helm of leadership also stands to grow. In Sacramento, CA., Dr. Flojuane Cofer, a first-time candidate with a strong track record in public health policy, is leading the race to be the capital city's next mayor. Should she win, she will be the first Black woman to serve in this office. In Richmond, VA, Michelle Mosby, the first Black woman to lead the City Council, is vying to become the city's second Black woman mayor.

These pending leadership breakthroughs are journeys set in motion 52 years ago by the late congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who was the first Black woman to run for president as a major party candidate. In the six decades since Chisholm arrived on the scene, Black women have shattered multiple political leadership glass ceilings, and we've done so in the face of seemingly intractable racial and gender barriers.

We've grown our presence in the U.S. Congress from just one (Chisholm) in 1968 to 31 elected Black women currently serving voters in 19 states. Our numbers have especially seen growth in the last decade, increasing from 18 to 30. While women overall are underrepresented in Congress, Black women account for 19.2% of all voting women members of Congress, but just 15.3% of the U.S. women population.

Black women have successfully organized and strategized to make significant political leadership gains in the form of Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation to the Supreme Court, Harris' vice presidency, and a steadily growing list of Black women being elected mayors of some of the country's largest cities, including Los Angeles, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., New Orleans and Charlotte, N.C. Additionally, a record number of Black women are currently serving in statewide elected executive offices, including four who are serving as lieutenant governors.

However, the recent report underscores that these achievements come at a cost. The online abuse faced by women of color candidates, particularly African-American women, poses a significant barrier to creating a truly in-

... continued on page 23

*Trump... continued from page 5*

Benefitting from Black Republicans organizing "Barbershop Meet-ups" and alluring Black men to MAGA rallies is nothing but cheap ploys designed to manipulate the uninformed.

To be fair, Trump does not limit his selling of snake oil to receptive Black men only. His demagoguery has convinced millions of uneducated, poor White Americans that he is a populist advocating on their behalf. What a joke! The only voters who seem to enjoy Trump's concern are those who he has called: "Rich as hell".

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz have track records worthy of all American voters – including Black males. They are the real "Champions of the People". Compare their economic agenda with Trump and Vance's Project 2025 blueprint for more "Trickle-down economics".

The stakes in the election are too high to allow showmanship to prevail. The more American voters – of all stripes – study the priorities of these candidates, it will become crystal clear that most White and Black voters share more in common than they might realize. The public record, if thoroughly studied, should cause the overwhelming majority of the electorate to stifle Trump's pursuit of power and force him to face his day of reckoning.

*Michael A Grant, J.D., president emeritus of the National Bankers Association and former assistant professor of political science at Morgan State University, is a columnist with the Trice Edney News Wire.*

*Lucas County Library... continued from page 8*

of a \$100,000 house will pay approximately \$3 a month for the full 30-year duration of the bond.

For additional information about the Library's bond (Issue 24), please visit our website below. Let's continue to support impactful and valuable community organizations, like the Library, which returns its investment to Lucas County residents each and every day.

Learn more! (<https://toledofol.org/bond>)

Thank you, Friends of the Library

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- CWA Local 4319, Communication Workers of America
- Equality Toledo Community Action
- Heat & Frost Insulators Local 45
- IBEW Local 8
- Iron Workers Local 55
- Laborers' Local 500
- Lucas County Democratic Party
- Northwest Ohio Building Trades
- NW Ohio AFL-CIO
- Roofers Local Union #134
- Sheet Metal Workers Local 33
- Toledo Area UAW Cap Council
- Toledo Federation of Teachers Local 250
- Toledo Firefighters Local 92
- Toledo Port Council, Maritime Trades Department, A.F.L.-C.I.O.
- United Association Local No. 50 Plumbers, Steamfitters & Service Mechanics Union
- UAW Local 12
- UAW Local 14
- UAW Region 2-B - Ohio State UAC PAC
- UFCW Local 75

VOTE AMY STONER FOR JUDGE – NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

www.AmyStonerForJudge.com

Paid for by Amy Stoner for Judge

Perryman... continued from page 4

**Stewart:** I haven’t yet had the chance to address certain high-profile issues in court, like reproductive freedom or gerrymandering, as these cases typically attract media attention. However, my approach is not determined by the topic but by constitutional analysis. Whether it involves reproductive rights, search and seizure, free speech or cruel and unusual punishment, each case undergoes the same rigorous constitutional review.

When these cases reach the court, we will conduct a constitutional analysis to determine if current statutes violate the amendment. Those that do will be struck down; those that can coexist with the amendment will remain in place.

**Perryman:** What role does The Ohio Supreme Court play in ensuring fair districting?

**Stewart:** The Ohio Supreme Court ruled seven times that the redistricting maps were gerrymandered, yet the redistricting committee ignored these rulings. People often ask why we didn’t hold them in contempt or jail them, but the judiciary lacks enforcement powers—unlike the executive branch’s “power of the sword” or the legislative branch’s “power of the purse.” No one expected elected officials to defy a Supreme Court order, but recent events, like January 6th, reveal a new disregard for legal authority.

Current constitutional provisions don’t empower the Supreme Court to enforce fair maps, but the “Citizens, Not Politicians” proposed amendment would change that. This amendment would establish a 15-member, nonpartisan redistricting commission and, if needed, allow the Supreme Court to ensure fair maps are drawn. This approach aims to prevent one-party dominance, as currently seen across Ohio’s executive, legislative and judicial branches, which undermines the checks and balances essential to democracy.

**Perryman:** Regarding the legal aspects of book bans, how can courts protect freedom of expression while balancing community concerns?

**Stewart:** Personally, book bans are primarily a community and court matter. While I agree that certain books should be age-appropriate and that parents should have input, I don’t believe parents should control entire curricula. Parents should have the right to restrict certain books for their own children but not for others. I am strongly against book bans, as they impose one family’s preferences on an entire school.

There is a balance to be found; parents’ concerns about age-appropriateness should be respected without erasing history or restricting access to knowledge. Book bans aimed at “protecting” children from uncomfortable truths—especially historical facts—are misguided and risk undermining education for all.

**Perryman:** How do you balance economic development with the need for environmental sustainability, particularly in communities of color, which are often disproportionately affected by pollution and poor air quality? I know in northwestern Ohio, that would include the lack of access to clean water.

**Stewart:** Without leaders committed to the long-term well-being of our communities, we risk leaving future generations in an unhealthy and unsustainable world. Many officials seem more focused on the next election, donor, or special interest group than the greater good. This short-sightedness, often ignoring science or dismissing environmental concerns, disproportionately harms poor communities and communities of color, as policies impacting health and safety frequently target these areas.

To ensure a healthier future, citizens must demand that elected officials take these issues seriously, balancing economic development with environmental and public health. If those in office aren’t acting in the community’s best interests, we need to elect leaders who will. These are concerns I ponder not just as a jurist but as a citizen committed to a just and sustainable society.

**Perryman:** As a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court, you make very difficult and maybe even life-altering decisions affecting many people. What keeps you grounded?

**Stewart:** I go back to what my mother always said, “Always leave a place better off than it was before you got there.” You want to have a positive impact on somebody’s life, and I think most people want that. I always try to stay faithful to that calling. That’s what keeps me grounded.

I know everything I am is from the village that raised me from the tremendous amount of God’s grace and I just want to do what I’m supposed to do according to His will. I’m grateful for the opportunities I have had.

**Perryman:** What message do you have for young African Americans or other people of color who aspire to work in the legal profession?

...continued on page 23



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*Perryman... continued from page 22*

**Stewart:** I recently spoke with Representative Elgin Rogers, who emphasized that Black men's voices are often overlooked. My message to everyone in the African American community, both men and women, is that we all have the power to make a positive difference in our lives, our families, and our communities. If we, as adults, don't believe in our potential, we risk passing down that disbelief to future generations, setting them up for missed opportunities.

Every child, including those in the African American community, has the potential to be anything they aspire to be. But they need communities that surround them with positive role models, resources, and support. Without this, they are more vulnerable to paths that may limit their potential, such as early pregnancy or incarceration. Even those who have made poor decisions deserve the opportunity to reintegrate and contribute to society.

Many young people face trauma, food insecurity and other challenges, and it's our duty to recognize and address these issues. This is not complicated; we simply need to commit to giving every child a fair chance to reach their fullest potential.

**Perryman:** Thank you for the opportunity to chat with you.

**Stewart:** You're quite welcome. Thank you for calling and taking the time to interview me.



Justice Melody Stewart with Toledo schoolchildren

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at [drdperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org](mailto:drdperryman@enterofhopebaptist.org)

*Immigrants... continued from page 19*

2010 and 2022, more than six times the rate of their U.S.-born counterparts. Meanwhile, the number of immigrant entrepreneurs within Main Street businesses rose by 20.7 percent, two and a half times that of the U.S.-born entrepreneurs.

\*

By 2022, immigrants made up 13.0 percent of the region's self-employed and 16.4 percent of its Main Street business owners, despite comprising

just 7.8 percent of the population.

\*

Immigrant households generated \$236.6 billion in income in 2022 and paid \$65.7 billion in taxes, \$23.9 billion of which went to state and local governments—money that helps fund schools, roads, and other public services. They held \$170.9 billion in spending power—much of it circulated within the regional economy for groceries, transportation, housing, and other consumer goods.

*Black Women... continued from page 21*

clusive democracy. It's crucial that social media platforms, political parties, journalists, researchers, and other stakeholders in the information ecosystem take concrete steps to address this issue.

Despite these challenges, the rise of Vice President Harris and other Black women in politics is not an anomaly. It is an American success story with generations of precedence. Our system of democracy is by no means perfect, but history shows it has provided a foundation for generations of marginalized people to grow in influence and contribute to moving our country closer to the ideals and principles laid out in its Constitution.

Every generation faces a test of its commitment to realizing these promises. Current efforts to reverse course on the progress of the past 60 years,

coupled with the new challenges posed by online violence, constitute our test. But Black women leaders have been building and strategizing for a moment like this, and we arrive here ready and able to lead in a manner that will take America forward, never back.

As we celebrate progress, we must also acknowledge and actively combat the unique challenges women of color face in the political arena. Only by addressing these issues head-on can we ensure that our democracy truly represents and serves all Americans.

*Glynda C. Carr is President and CEO of Higher Heights for America, a 501(c)(4) organization, and its connected federal political action committee, Higher Heights for America PAC, which works to expand Black women's elected representation and voting participation. Learn more at <https://www.higherheightsforamerica.org>.*

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- No accountability to voters;
- Removes voters from the process;
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# We MUST do better in TOLEDO

## A Letter to Toledo Voters from former mayor Carty Finkbeiner

It troubles me deeply that on Sunday, October 6, *The Blade* opined for the passage of Toledo Issue 9, which would allow a mayor that has served two consecutive terms to seek election to a third consecutive term. There were many reasons those of us who pushed for a reversion to a Strong Mayor form of government in Toledo also pushed for a limit of two consecutive terms.

I am a lifelong and proud resident of Toledo. Right out of college I taught and coached football at Maumee Valley Country Day School, St. Francis de Sales High School, and the University of Toledo. I then went to work for the federal anti-poverty program EOPA and spent most of my time working in Toledo's central-city neighborhoods. From there I sought a seat on Toledo City Council, and in 1993 was elected Toledo's first strong mayor under the revised city charter.

As mayor, my administration practiced "we can, and must do better in Toledo." I was inspired by the vision of two legendary Toledoans — Edward Drummond Libbey and Jesup Scott.

Therefore, the Finkbeiner administration proceeded to find a new world headquarters for Owens Corning, keeping the Fortune 500 company in downtown Toledo. We helped Dana expand their world HQ in Toledo on property at Dorr Street and Richards Road. We worked with the governor of Ohio and the UAW to find the right site for a new Jeep plant in North Toledo.

During this time, we kept our neighborhoods clean and safe by working with some 250 Neighborhood Block Watch programs and 45 neighborhood associations. As a result, our crime rate was low — one year we had but 13 murders!

We planted flowers wherever they were visible to Toledoans going about their daily travels. We cleaned up International Park, which helped usher in the renaissance of East Toledo's riverfront by welcoming 4 new restaurants at The Docks — a renaissance which continues to this day with The Lofts Apartments and Glass City MetroPark.

Toledo was named one of ten *All-America Cities*, and we were recognized as the 3rd "Most Livable City in the World" in our population category (250,000-499,000) by a United Nations survey conducted in London.

Fast-forward to today. On our present mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz's seven-year watch, violent crime has traumatized Toledo's neighborhoods and the families who live in them. Blight and crime are seen regularly on the nightly TV news. Streets and alleys are rubbish-strewn, and lighting goes unrepaired for weeks on end, particularly in North and Northwest Toledo, and the Old South End.

Renters at The Covenant House, Ashland Manor, and Greenbelt Parkway Apartments live in uncouth, unsanitary conditions. To clean up Greenbelt, county commissioner Pete Gerken was called in to get the absentee owner's attention, even though the complex is directly visible from the mayor's office, three blocks away.

Moreover, *The Sojourner's Truth* on November 29, 2023 reported that among 100 U.S. metropolitan areas, African American families in Toledo earn the lowest annual income — a devastating \$31,100 for a family of four. These statistics reveal an undeniable truth: Wade Kapszukiewicz has failed as a recruiter of jobs and a builder of economic opportunity. In fact, there has been no major job-creating project during his tenure.

If *The Blade* editorial board finds this mediocrity acceptable, again, I worry for Toledo's future.

Our city charter should not be altered by a sitting mayor to allow three consecutive mayoral terms; not for any reason, and certainly not for Wade. Neither he nor his staff have kept our streets safe, nor our neighborhoods clean. And they had \$180,000,000 in one-time federal pandemic relief funds, which no other mayor has ever had, nor likely ever will. That is an absolute tragedy!

*The Blade's* editorial endorsing an ill-advised charter revision ignores these facts, thus falling short of our shared community ideal of pursuing excellence and accountability.

Within Toledo, we have people, groups, and organizations capable of bearing upon our shoulders the challenges we must face. We must insist that the leadership of our community demands excellence from all, and that includes an under-achieving mayor. All of Toledo can and must do better!

## Vote NO on Issue 9 for a better Toledo!

Paid for by Carty Finkbeiner

