

2011 Licking County Candidates Questionnaire



2011

GENERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CITY OF HEATH

Council-At-Large: Deb Cole, Jeff Crabill, Jeff Evans,
Cledys Henry, Tim Kelly, Chris May

S = SUPPORT
I = INCREASE

O = OPPOSE
D = DECREASE

U = UNDECIDED
N = NO CHANGE

1. Increasing municipal income taxes to fund local government services

Cole: O This is not the right time to even consider increasing taxes. The economy has been hit hard and many families are struggling just to get by. We have to find a way to live within our means.

Crabill: DID NOT RESPOND

Evans: O Citizens and businesses are making cuts on spending so too should cities.

Henry: DID NOT RESPOND

Kelly: DID NOT RESPOND

May: O I am opposed to any tax increases. We still do a lot of nice things at the local level that are not absolutely necessary. There are places to make cuts, if necessary.

2. Increasing property taxes to fund local government services

Cole: O As stated in relation to municipal income tax increases, we need to explore other options to fund services, rather than add to the burden of our citizens.

Evans: O Citizens and businesses are making cuts on spending so too should cities.

May: O



3. Increasing fees to fund local government services or improvements

Cole: U This would need to be evaluated on a case by case basis, but could be a viable option in some situations. If we are looking to increase revenue to fund optional services, citizens would have the choice of whether or not to utilize those services.

Evans: U Only to provide core services if funding is needed.

May: O I would be opposed to increasing fees, in this economic climate. We need to find new ways to promote new business to generate new money instead of overcharging current businesses and individuals.

4. Borrowing money using bonds to rebuild highway and bridge infrastructure

Cole: U I think this is worth considering as an option. Each project would need to be evaluated independently to determine the most cost effective way to complete the work.

Evans: S Only if absolutely needed.

May: O

5. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to help pay for new development

Cole: S This is definitely an option worth consideration. Having researched how this option has been utilized in other areas, there have been areas where it has worked well, and it could assist economic growth.

Evans: S It is important to have and beneficial for all involved.

May: S I would support abatements, TIF's, and Enterprise Zones, with appropriate safe guards, to bring businesses to our community. I would much rather get them here now, to bring jobs, knowing that down the road we will benefit from the tax money.

6. Enterprise Zones to help attract new business to Licking County localities

Cole: S I think that this is an option worth exploring. Economic Development and growth in our City are key factors in assuring we are able to maintain and enhance service levels and amenities for the citizens of Heath.

Evans: S It is important to have and beneficial for all involved.

May: S I would support abatements, TIF's, and Enterprise Zones, with appropriate safe guards, to bring businesses to our community. I would much rather get them here now, to bring jobs, knowing that down the road we will benefit from the tax money.

7. Tax abatement to help attract new business to Licking County localities

Cole: Did not answer.

Evans: S It is important to have and beneficial for all involved.

May: S I would support abatements, TIF's, and Enterprise Zones, with appropriate safe guards, to bring businesses to our community. I would much rather get them here now, to bring jobs, knowing that down the road we will benefit from the tax money.

8. Reforming municipal zoning and/or property maintenance codes

Cole: U In order to make a decision on this, it would be necessary to conduct a comprehensive review of existing codes and issues related to them.

Evans: U These issues should remain flexible.

May: S

9. Partnering with Primary/Secondary/Higher Ed to better train area workers

Cole: S I absolutely support partnering with education to better train area workers. This is a win for everyone. Employers are able to access a more qualified applicant pool, the employees gain skills that will enhance career opportunities and hopefully, it frees up entry level positions for the unemployed.

Evans: S The better trained workforce the better the opportunity for new businesses.

May: S It is certainly in our best interest, to have the most highly trained and best educated workforce possible. That too can attract business.

10. Other Issue/Project

Evans: U Bike paths – while not a core service I would like to see paths lead into businesses and industrial areas.

CITY OF NEWARK

Mayor: Jeff Hall (R), Max Sutton (D)

Council President: Don Ellington (R)

Council-At-Large: Beau Bromberg (R), Ryan Bubb (R), Bill Cost Jr. (D),
Marc Guthrie (D), David Rhodes (R)

S = SUPPORT
I = INCREASE

O = OPPOSE
D = DECREASE

U = UNDECIDED
N = NO CHANGE

1. Increasing municipal income taxes to fund local government services.

Hall: O We need to run government more efficiently, not raise taxes.

Sutton: The ORC mandates any additional increase be voted on by citizens. The city can't ask citizens for more income. We have to first be committed to eliminating waste, duplication, and inefficiency. State cuts to the LGF and estate tax will force us to be more creative than ever.

Ellington: O

Bromberg: O

Bubb: O

Cost: There is only so much money available – we need to look at reducing spending.

Guthrie: Any income tax issue would need to be approved by the voters; Newark has reached its permissive limit, without a vote of the people. Our tax structure must be competitive, so that we can attract new residents and new employers. I cannot foresee a situation, which would warrant an increase.

Rhodes: O We need to work within our means.

2. Increasing property taxes to pave streets.

Hall: O The citizens of Newark do not want higher property taxes.

Sutton: Property taxes have traditionally been used for the benefit of our school system. Asking our citizens to support a property tax increase that is traditionally used for schools could decrease the funding to our local schools and would need thorough review and input from the schools.

Ellington: O

Bromberg: O

Bubb: O

Cost: Depending on what funds are available in capital improvements and general fund at the time.

Guthrie: Any proposal to place a property tax increase on the ballot for streets, or parks and recreation, or any other issue would need thorough review, including a recommendation by a citizens committee, which would include representatives of the business community. Generally, I feel this tax needs to be for schools.

Rhodes: O We have a License Plate Permissive Tax for this purpose.

3. Safety Funds being used to build new stations.

Hall: S This is one of the reasons the safety levy was passed. We need to follow through with our commitments to the citizens of Newark.

Sutton: Due to the current appropriation of funds, this would require amending legislation. I feel our newest stations have been overbuilt; with better planning we could have built more stations in better locations, thus making these funds available for other needs within our safety forces.

Ellington: U

Bromberg: S

Bubb: S Personnel costs must be covered first.

Cost: Equipment comes first. Improvements and replacement of stations also need attention.

Guthrie: The revenue from the income tax increase, which was earmarked for safety, has produced fewer tax dollars than estimated. Because of poor response times to certain areas, and because two of the stations are inadequate, we need to be on a schedule to build two new stations, which would require bonding.

Rhodes: S A promise was made to the tax payers. We need to fund all the promise.

4. License Plate Permissive Tax funds being used only for paving.

Hall: S We need to bring all of our streets up to standards with focus on paving.

Sutton: The ORC defines how this tax is used. We must avoid the misconception that “paving” is merely laying down asphalt. Paving includes all the work that goes into laying asphalt – property purchase and preparation, surveying, road construction, etc.

Ellington: S

Bromberg: S

Bubb: S

Cost: Paving, sidewalks, related needs – concept of complete streets for many uses.

Guthrie: Newark had no further permissive authority in this area; such an increase is not an option.

Rhodes: S Or to be used as a match for additional paving dollars.

5. Trash hauling being regulated by the City of Newark.

Hall: O The citizens should have the right to choose their own trash hauler.

Sutton: I cannot support single service trash hauling. However, I do believe that we can better address waste and property maintenance issues if we implement reasonable regulations. No company would be put out of business, we would be addressing citizens’ concerns and we could advocate for reduced fees for our citizens.

Ellington: O

Bromberg: O We must not trade our free market for city control, even if it saves us a dollar or two

Bubb: O

Cost: Consider dividing city into zones for haulers to bid.

Guthrie: The committee discussions on this matter need to continue. There’s a valid concern about deterioration caused by multiple heavy refuse trucks on residential streets. If a plan was proposed to divide (and bid) the city in 4-6 sections that would save residents significant cost, I’d listen closely to the proposal.

Rhodes: O Should be a free market.

6. Increasing property taxes to fund local government services.

Hall: Government needs to run more efficient and not take more hard-earned money from its citizens.

Sutton: Again, this tax has traditionally provided funding for our schools. Any tax that would reduce these funds for our schools or redistribute the payment of these taxes needs careful consideration and input from the school board and other officials.

Ellington: O

Bromberg: O

Bubb: O

Cost: Taxes last resort – re-examine all costs and spending first.

Guthrie: Any proposal to place a property tax increase on the ballot for streets, or parks and recreation, or any other issue would need thorough review, including a recommendation by a citizens committee, which would include representatives of the business community. Generally, I feel this tax needs to be for schools.

Rhodes: U We need to work within our means.

7. Increasing fees to fund local government services or improvements.

Hall: O Fees should only be used to help offset the administrative costs directly associated with the service provided as the result of the fee.

Sutton: Tax and fee increases should not be the first resort; cutting unnecessary spending by identifying waste, duplication, and inefficiency comes first. Council did recently approve a bed tax increase to fund recreational activities such as the Babe Ruth fields which have been an important part of Newark’s history.

Ellington: U


Bromberg: S If the cost of services has increased it is ok to raise fees to cover new expenses.

Bubb: O

Cost: Must consider amounts and the specific services and improvements.

Guthrie: Fees need to be considered based on the service rendered by the fee itself. Fees should not be raised beyond the value of the service provided. Fees should not be used to fund services that do not relate to the fees provided.

Rhodes: U It would depend on the improvements needed.



8. Borrowing money using bonds to rebuild highway and bridge infrastructure.

Hall: S Debt can be effectively used as one tool for financing improvements.

Sutton: I will collaborate with our auditor and other city officials to ensure that we are fiscally responsible. By merely cutting expenses and failing to invest in infrastructure we will fall further behind other communities. Understanding the difference between cutting expenses and investing in our future is crucial.

Ellington: O

Bromberg: O Unless an emergency situation.

Bubb: O

Cost: Could be presented as part of a package.

Guthrie: Newark can only bond up to its capacity to pay principal and interest payments. This option should be used for major infrastructure projects, such as bridges, and building fire stations in locations that improve response times to our citizens.

Rhodes: U Would rely on the Engineer to determine the need.

9. Borrowing money using bonds to rebuild highway and bridge infrastructure, pave roads.

Hall: O Issuing debt should be controlled and not over utilized.

Sutton: I would work in collaboration with our auditor and other city officials to ensure that we are fiscally responsible. I believe in the concept of conservation growth; one must continually invest in his or her business (in this case our city) in order to stay ahead of the field.

Ellington: U

Bromberg: O Unless an emergency situation.

Bubb: O

Cost: Could be presented as part of package.

Guthrie: A prudent approach to bonding, within our capacity, should be used for major infrastructure projects, such as bridges and fire stations.

Rhodes: O I am opposed to the borrowing for paving.

10. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to help pay for new development.

Hall: S With proper agreements, TIF's can be effective for development.

Sutton: I believe in providing incentives and working with our auditor and law director. These transactions must be transparent and carefully planned so the development is sustainable and doesn't lead to cutting services elsewhere. School districts must be included in these discussions as the revenue available to them could be reduced.

Ellington: S

Bromberg: U

Bubb: S

Cost: All options should be considered – look at private/public partnerships.

Guthrie: I have long been supportive of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements as one of the tools for economic development. Sound fiscal judgment must be used when considering all tax incentives.

Rhodes: S This is a good avenue to help with development.

11. Enterprise Zones to help attract new business to Licking County localities.

Hall: S We need to use a variety of measurers to attract new business.

Sutton: EZ agreements are complex and can be a valuable tool if negotiated cautiously. All of Newark is an EZ and our economic development director is using this tool when applicable. Because of the far-reaching effects of tax incentives, we should look to other assistance programs prior to considering these.

Ellington: S

Bromberg: O

Bubb: S

Cost: A good idea to attract new business as well as helping existing business.

Guthrie: Tax incentives, which result in Enterprise Zones, can also be a valuable tool in encouraging job creation, and I support the use of such zones in circumstances where appropriate.

Rhodes: S We have to be aggressive in attracting new businesses. This would be one way of doing that.

12. Tax abatements to help attract new business to Licking County localities.

Hall: S We need to be competitive with other communities in Central Ohio.

Sutton: Yes, for businesses that will bring good jobs and are committed to our community; but, we can't cripple our tax base or set ourselves up for failure. We must try to attract businesses by being the best city we can be, building strong schools and creating a more attractive city.

Ellington: S

Bromberg: O We need to be business friendly, and have a tax system that is attractive to businesses.

Bubb: S

Cost: Always an option – make sure there are guarantees back to the county in return.

Guthrie: As a former of the Ohio House of Representatives, I encouraged capping property tax abatements at 75%, because of the impact abatements often have on school funding. Tax abatements, when used appropriately, can result in job creation; I support their use with careful consideration for our school system.

Rhodes: S We have to remain competitive to attract new business.

13. Partnering with Primary/Secondary/Higher Ed. to better train area workers.

Hall: S Better training is always a plus for the local area and its citizens.

Sutton: I will link our children and schools with our city government. I will form a Mayor's Youth Council and invite our youth to help create solutions to our problems. I will encourage local businesses, big and small to become involved in helping our schools and our children thrive.

Ellington: S

Bromberg: S This is a big advantage for Newark. We need to be flexible to train for any business needs.

Bubb: S

Cost: Good idea – C-TEC as example.

Guthrie: City officials, Newark City Schools, C-TEC and COTC must work together to assure that we are doing everything in our power to produce a well-educated, well-prepared workforce. We can keep, and entice good employers to our area by collaborating with our excellent educational institutions.

Rhodes: S C-TEC would be a good example.

14. Newark should have a City Manager.

Hall: O I believe a City Manager would lack the "heart" and local roots needed to properly run the City. It has not proven advantageous in other cities.

Sutton: I believe Newark could benefit from having a city manager that can provide continuity to the city's vision. We must ensure that a city manager continues to be responsible to the citizen's needs. After careful review by a non-partisan commission, the idea would have to be placed on the ballot.

Ellington: U

Bromberg: The vision of the city should be from the Mayor. We can not have 2 quarterbacks. If the Mayor needs help, let's get him some help. Not a new department to spend more money.

Bubb: U

Cost: I would be in favor of a City Manager as well as a Mayor.

Guthrie: This issue should be explored by a non-partisan Charter Review Commission. Many cities have moved to this form of government and have had success. A Charter Commission should seek public opinion on this matter and make a well-studied recommendation to the voters of Newark.

Rhodes: U This will be in front of the voters next year with other charter recommendations.

15. What other issues should be on the agenda for the next Charter Review Commission in 2012?

Hall: U

Sutton: Non-partisan elections. Regardless of party affiliation, we need leaders who are willing to run for office because they want what is best for Newark. The make up and number of council members also needs addressed.

Ellington: City Manager needed or not in Newark. Strong Mayor vs. weak Mayor.

Bromberg: DID NOT ANSWER

Bubb: S I am open to all ideas/issues.

Cost: Looking at Newark City Council becoming non-partisan.

Guthrie: I've long embraced the idea that our citizens should be given the option of eliminating partisan labels from local elections. Most of Ohio's 186 Charter cities have non-partisan elections. There's no legitimate reason the people of Newark should not be able to pass judgment on this issue at the ballot.

Rhodes: Should Newark have a City Manager? Should Newark have a Treasurer & Auditor? Should Newark have a Service & Safety Director?

16. Other Issue/Project

Hall: Strong focus on the budget and property maintenance.

Sutton: Downtown Development – As a downtown property and business owner, I wholeheartedly believe that Newark cannot be the best city it can be without a great, flourishing downtown. I will focus efforts on downtown and the nearby neighborhoods to protect our history and prepare for our future.

Bromberg: With 20+ years business experience I understand what businesses want and need to succeed here in Newark.

Bubb: A focus needs put on Economic Development/jobs.

Cost: Working toward better communication and problem solving with government-business-general public.

Guthrie: We must have a downtown that people enjoy and feel safe visiting; this is crucial to revitalizing our City. Our square is improving dramatically; however, more needs to be done to capitalize on its potential. The idea of a CIC for downtown is a good one.

Rhodes: Downtown re-development, attracting businesses. Both could be accomplished with private/public partnerships, working towards the same goals.

departments, rather than passing those costs along to the general population.

CITY OF PATASKALA

1st Ward Council: Jennifer Ashbrook (R), Patty Sagar (R)

2nd Ward Council: Mike Compton (I), Donald Smiley (I)

3rd Ward Council: Mike Fox (R), Joseph Gernert (R)

4th Ward Council: C. Daniel Hayes (R)

S = SUPPORT

I = INCREASE

O = OPPOSE

D = DECREASE

U = UNDECIDED

N = NO CHANGE

1. Increasing municipal income taxes to fund local government services

Ashbrook: O Our citizens just approved an income tax. At this time we need to make sure the city wisely spends this money.

Sagar: S

Compton: O No new taxes!

Smiley: O

Fox: DID NOT RESPOND

Gernert: O Our current income tax receipts are too new to evaluate the impact. But it should provide adequate funding.

Hayes: DID NOT RESPOND

2. Increasing property taxes to fund local government services

Ashbrook: O I do not believe that an increase in property taxes needed. The City needs to work within their new income tax to fund services.

Sagar: O

Compton: O No new taxes!

Smiley: O

Gernert: O No, not at this time and only for Parks & Rec services.

3. Increasing fees to fund local government services or improvements

Ashbrook: O Again, I believe that the City should work within its means and be good stewards of the money it is currently collecting.

Sagar: S

Compton: O Already too many fees affecting small business and residents.

Smiley: O

Gernert: O No, not at this time and only for Parks & Rec services.

4. Borrowing money using bonds to rebuild highway and bridge infrastructure

Ashbrook: S I believe that bonds can be a good way to support infrastructure repairs but it is a mechanism that must be done responsibly.

Sagar: S

Compton: O Stop borrowing! Work within existing budget.

Smiley: S

Gernert: S The amount of income tax funding is not enough. We will need to borrow to repair our highway/street infrastructure within the next 4 years.

5. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to help pay for new development

Ashbrook: S I have supported the two TIF's that we have in Pataskala now and will continue to do so as long as they are measured responsibly.

Sagar: S

Compton: U

Smiley: S

Gernert: U It depends what the development will support.

6. Enterprise Zones to help attract new business to Licking County localities

Ashbrook: S Enterprise Zones can be great if created correctly and responsibly.

Sagar: S

Compton: S We must help small business thrive, the backbone of smaller communities.

Smiley: S

Gernert: O Opposed at this time. I don't think Pataskala has any distressed areas that is should focus on. Focus should be on the JRS site.



7. Tax abatement to help attract new business to Licking County localities

Ashbrook: S I support tax abatements with clear defining limits.

Sagar: S

Compton: S To the right companies, and for a limited time.

Smiley: U

Gernert: O The City has areas in place. It does not need this at this time or in the near future.

8. Reforming municipal zoning and/or property maintenance codes

Ashbrook: S Zoning codes are a necessary living tool for communities and should be reviewed constantly to meet the needs of our community.

Sagar: S

Compton: U We must work to balance rural and city areas.

Smiley: S

Gernert: S Currently in process.

9. Partnering with Primary/Secondary/Higher Ed to better train area workers

Ashbrook: S This is a wonderful tool that will assist us in building a local work force that will be attractive to businesses wanting to locate to Pataskala and surrounding areas.

Sagar: S

Compton: S

Smiley: S

Gernert: S

10. Other Issue/Project

Ashbrook: As a small business owner in Pataskala, I have first hand knowledge on how important it is for the City and businesses to work cooperatively for the continued progress of our community.

Sagar: S Encourage new businesses and industry to Licking County . . .especially the new JRS in Pataskala.

Compton: S Saving, restoring and maintaining existing buildings and structures rather than building new ones.

Smiley: Marketing Pataskala Job Ready Site.

\

CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG

Mayor: Richard Donovan (I), Brad McCloud (R)

President of Council: Doug Joseph (R)

City Council 2nd Ward: Leslie Kelly (R)

City Council 3rd Ward: Cornelius McGrady III (D), Bill Sampson (R)

S = SUPPORT
I = INCREASE

O = OPPOSE
D = DECREASE

U = UNDECIDED
N = NO CHANGE

1. Increasing municipal income taxes to fund local government services

Donovan: S

McCloud: DID NOT RESPOND

Joseph: O As a Councilman, voted no on increases in 2006 and 2011

Kelly: DID NOT RESPOND

McGrady: O

Sampson: DID NOT RESPOND

2. Increasing property taxes to fund local government services

Donovan: O

Joseph: O

McGrady: O

3. Increasing fees to fund local government services or improvements

Donovan: S

Joseph: U Depends on the size of the increase and purpose.

McGrady: O

4. Borrowing money using bonds to rebuild highway and bridge infrastructure

Donovan: O

Joseph: S As a Councilman, voted for such legislation.

McGrady: S

5. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to help pay for new development

Donovan: S

Joseph: S

McGrady: S

6. Enterprise Zones to help attract new business to Licking County localities

Donovan: S

Joseph: S

McGrady: S

7. Tax abatement to help attract new business to Licking County localities

Donovan: S

Joseph: S

McGrady: S



8. Reforming municipal zoning and/or property maintenance codes

Donovan: S

Joseph: S As a Councilman, voted for such legislation.

McGrady: Did not answer

9. Partnering with Primary/Secondary/Higher Ed to better train area workers

Donovan: S

Joseph: S As a Councilman, voted for such legislation.

McGrady: S

10. Other Issue/Project

Joseph: S Consolidation of government services. I am currently researching this issue.

For more information on polling locations
and times, contact the Licking County
Board of Elections, 740/670-5080





October 22 - 2nd Annual Wine & Brew Fest - Taste samplings of wine and micro-brewed beers at this fun evening at Apple Tree Auction Center from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. Music by Acoustic Shu & Sticks and Stones. Enjoy appetizers courtesy of: Big Apple Cafe, Damon's Restaurant, Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches, Quizno's Subs, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Christy's Pizza. Gourmet coffee bar by Caribou Coffee. Buy tickets at: Roots & Shoots, Buckeye Winery, The Beverage Source, The Chamber, Al's Meat Market, Market Basket, Apple Tree Auction Center & First Federal Branches in Heath, Newark and Granville.

October 27 - Saving Money Lunch & Learn - Current savings initiatives to help Small Businesses, Farmers and Residents of Ohio, including the following: \$ GrowNOW - a program that offers low cost financing for small businesses; Ohio \$ ag-Link - an annual program that provides an interest rate reduction and operating lines of credit to farms \$ ECO-Link - a program designed to provide reduced rate financing through partnering banks for Ohioans completing weatherization improvements and installing energy efficient products in their homes and \$ SaveNOW - a program that offers a 3.00% interest bonus on savings accounts. Held at The Works from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

November 10 - Business After Hours at National Heisey Glass Museum Tour this historic museum, enjoy appetizers and networking, 5-7 p.m.

November 16 - Holiday Gift Preview & Luncheon Are you dreaming of the perfect gifts for your loved ones this season? Well, you'll have the opportunity to preview all of the hot, new gift items of the season - most priced at \$50 or less, at the Holiday Gift Preview & Luncheon. You will enjoy lunch and a "show & tell" of gift ideas for the entire family from local retailers. All attendees will receive a goody bag filled with samples, coupons, certificates and free gifts! There will be dozens of door prizes as well. Held at Adornetto's Restaurant from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

December 8 - Business After Hours at Cherry Valley Lodge - Join us for this special holiday after hours with exhibitor tables, great food and all dressed up for the holidays! 5 - 7 p.m.

February 3, 2012 - 56th Annual Groundhog Breakfast - Join us for this annual networking breakfast with over 500 in attendance. Always a memorable event, the morning includes a delicious breakfast, entertainment, an economic forecast, and the John Alford Community Service Award, which will be given to a deserving member of our community. Keynote Speaker Shawn Swarner: a two-time cancer survivor, first Cancer survivor to climb the 7-Summits, author of the book Keep Climbing and international motivational speaker. Sponsored by Licking Memorial Health Systems. Get your reservation in early for the best seating! Breakfast lines open at 6:00 a.m.

