

AGGPAC ELECTION GUIDE

There has never been a year like 2020.

With a global pandemic, civil unrest and major disruptions to everyday life for all of us, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the general election is happening Nov. 3. But it is coming, and as voters, it is our responsibility to be prepared.

With local, state and national races crowding the ballot, including choosing the next president of the United States, it's easy for the judicial branch to get lost in the shuffle. Judicial candidates are generally the last candidates voters think about, let alone learn much about before they vote.

This year judges for county and common pleas courts will be up for election across the state, as well as all 12 courts of appeals districts and two seats on the Ohio Supreme Court. These judges make an impact on everyone by how they interpret the law, and regularly issue opinions that largely impact agriculture and the business community.

Inside this Farm Bureau-AGGPAC Election Guide, you will learn more about how this third, co-equal branch of our democracy operates, as well as who is in the running to fill those roles and which of those candidates have been designated a Friend of Agriculture. Make sure you take time to learn about the judicial candidates not just in this guide, but in your local judicial races, too.

As mentioned, we're also electing a president, 16 congresspersons, 17 Ohio senators and 99 Ohio House members. The people we elect at the federal, state and local level will impact our families, jobs, businesses, farms and communities. It's in our own best interest to know as much as we can about each candidate, to look at their background, learn about their priorities and assess their values.

This election guide is the culmination of hundreds of hours of work during which local members assessed what's important to their

neighbors, then put those questions to the people who want your vote, through calls and virtual meetings during an unprecedented pandemic. While not all-encompassing, they asked the questions Farm Bureau knew were important for members to get the answers to.

As valuable as I believe this guide is, we gathered more information than this publication can hold. So I encourage you to visit FarmVotesMatter.org where you'll find even more detailed responses to questions about the issues that matter to you.

I'd also ask you to take note of our Friend of Agriculture designations in the congressional races and those for the Ohio Senate and House. Inside we explain how candidates earned this coveted recognition. I hope you'll use this piece of information in your decision making process. Then, vote.

The deadline to register to vote in the general election is Oct. 5, with early and absentee voting beginning Oct. 6. Polls will also be open on Election Day, though because of COVID-19 restrictions voting in person could look different this year.

Regardless of how you vote, make sure you make an informed decision. We've never seen a year like 2020, and it is more imperative than ever that your voice is heard.

Your votes matter. Farm votes matter.

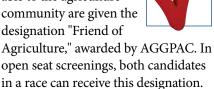


Tranh & Burhett III
Frank E. Burkett III
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
president

How We Designate Farm Friendly Candidates

How We Designate Farm Friendly State Candidates

The Statehouse candidates deemed favorable to the agriculture community are given the designation "Friend of



Here's how the process works

For races with incumbents:

Incumbents are evaluated based on their voting record, an issue survey and county Farm Bureaus' input on their level of engagement. For incumbents to be considered for the designation, they must have a satisfactory voting record in regard to Ohio Farm Bureau Key Votes, which during the 133rd General Assembly included water quality, broadband and beginning farmer tax credits. The other two components of their evaluation included satisfactory completion of Ohio Farm Bureau's incumbent survey and a positive review by county Farm Bureaus.

For open seat races:

County Farm Bureaus have held local screenings for Statehouse candidates to determine "Friends." After a group of members from within the district interview both candidates and discuss priority issues, the screening committee can designate one candidate, both candidates, or neither candidate as the Friend of Agriculture.

How We Designate Farm Friendly Federal Candidates

Both American Farm Bureau and Ohio Farm Bureau have a process to determine candidates that have demonstrated support for agriculture. Only one candidate in each race may receive this designation, to which two factors are used to determine. One is an evaluation conducted by each county in the congressional district. Local Farm Bureau leaders provide input on the representative's level of engagement, as well as his or her responsiveness to agricultural and business issues.

The second factor used is the legislator's voting record and position on American Farm Bureau's key issues. Votes that were considered included trade development and passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade agreement, rural broadband development and disaster assistance for farms and small businesses.



What is AGGPAC's structure?

AGGPAC is a bipartisan committee of Farm Bureau leaders appointed by Ohio Farm Bureau's president.

How is AGGPAC funded?

Funding comes from voluntary contributions by Farm Bureau members, largely in contributions of \$5 or less, strengthening the grassroots structure of our PAC and organization. Contributions can be made at **farmvotesmatter.org** at any time.

How To Support Farm Friendly Candidates



Make sure you are registered to vote by Oct. 5, 2020, to vote in the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election.



You can register to vote online or in person at your local board of elections.



You can view your voter registration online to check for needed updates and changes at VoteOhio.gov, or on your county board of elections website. You can check your registration status, change your address and find your polling place in one stop.



You can view a sample ballot before you head to the polls. Your county board of election website will allow you to view a sample of what you will see on Election Day to help you prepare.



IMPORTANT DATES

General election voter registration deadline:

Oct. 5, 2020

Early voting begins:

Oct. 6, 2020

General election:

Nov. 3, 2020

What are the different options for voting?

In Ohio, registered voters can choose one of three ways to vote: Early, Absentee, or on Election Day.

Early Voting

Beginning Oct. 6, 2020, all registered voters can skip the lines and may request and vote an absentee ballot in person at their county board of elections or early voting center as designated by the county.

Most Ohio counties provide early voting at their board of elections office, However, Lucas, Miami and Summit counties have separate early voting centers.

You can view early voting hours on the schedule at ofb.ag/vote-schedule.

Absentee Voting

All Ohio voters whose registration information is up-to-date have the opportunity to vote in any election from home by requesting an absentee ballot.

Voters need only fill out and return the application and their absentee ballot will be mailed to them so they may make their selections and return their ballot to the board of elections ahead of Election Day.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 31, but voters can submit their application any time. If mailed, absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 2 in order to be counted. You can also return your absentee ballot in-person to your county board of elections before the close of the polls at 7:30 pm on Election Day.

Election Day

On the Nov. 3 Election Day, you must cast your ballot in your precinct at your designated polling place between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. If you do not know where your designated precinct or polling place is located, please contact your county board of elections or use the toolkit at **VoteOhio.gov**.

Interested in helping serve on Election Day? Volunteer as a poll worker! You can contact your local Board of Elections office or sign up online at VoteOhio.gov to begin the training process and help ensure a smooth Election Day for your fellow Ohioans.

OHIO SUPREME COURT CANDIDATES

Ohio Farm Bureau question to candidates for Ohio Supreme Court Judge



How does your previous legal experience prepare you for sitting on Ohio's highest court?

Judi French 🗸

I was appointed to the Ohio Supreme Court in 2013. With the support of the Ohio Farm Bureau's AGGPAC, I was elected to the court the following year for a six-year term.



Before becoming a justice, I served the state as an appellate judge, chief legal counsel to the governor, an assistant attorney general, and a state government lawyer. I also have law firm and corporate experience. As an attorney representing the State of Ohio, I made two arguments before the United States Supreme Court.

As the daughter of a schoolteacher, I appreciate my Ohio roots and education, and I am committed to being a part of civic education in Ohio. I speak frequently to students, educators, and civic organizations. I also volunteer for a local program supporting students in foster care who want to go to college.

I believe deeply in equal access to our judicial system. I served on the court's Access to Justice Task Force and now serve on the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation board. I advocate within and outside the court for rules and programs that keep Ohio's courts open to everyone.

As a "Friend of Agriculture" designee in 2014, I am a regular at Farm Bureau events. In my travels across the state, I meet frequently with Ohio's farm families to learn about the issues they face.

A For more than seven years now, I have served as a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court. In that time, I have considered thousands of cases, participated in oral arguments, and written legal

opinions. We hear every type of legal case that can arise in Ohio, and with that experience, I am seeking another term on the court.

But I also have been busy with service away from the court. Since becoming a justice, I have traveled to all 88 counties in Ohio many times. In an effort to better understand the legal needs of Ohioans, I meet with civic organizations, businesses, elected leaders, educators, and individuals. I have visited many Ohio Farm Bureau offices, met with Farm Bureau leaders, toured local farms, and engaged with farm families. That foundation of information helps inform my decisions about what cases we should accept to decide and my understanding of the impact of the opinions we write.

Before becoming a justice, I served as a judge on the Tenth District Court of Appeals, which hears appeals from Franklin County courts and state administrative agencies. In eight years, I authored more than 800 legal opinions. I formed a broad base of knowledge about legal issues, and I also learned the importance of efficiency and clarity in writing legal opinions.

Before becoming a judge, I had been a lawyer for 16 years. My experience as a lawyer spanned private law practice for public and private clients, corporate experience, and government expertise.

The breadth of that experience is important because it gave me a broad base of understanding legal issues, but it also taught me how to work with clients and other lawyers, respond to emergencies, and find effective legal solutions. In those early years of practice, I learned the value of hard work and the importance of treating others—even opposing counsel—with respect. I have carried those same traits with me as a justice on the state's highest court.

✓ Friend of Agriculture

Sharon L. Kennedy 🗸

Justice Sharon L. Kennedy was first elected to an unexpired term on the Ohio Supreme Court in 2012 and was re-elected to a full-



term in 2014. Since joining the court her work on and beyond the bench distinguishes her as a proven conservative and problem solving leader.

Her work on the court is defined by her judicial philosophy — judicial restraint. Honoring her limited role in government she interprets the law, never rewriting it or legislating from the bench.

Beyond the bench Sharon has educated sheriffs, judges, magistrates, probation and parole officers about the treatment resources available to veterans through her initiative "Lean Forward: Advancing Veterans Treatment Courts Across Ohio" an annual statewide summit. Sharon also maintains an active speaking schedule addressing civic organizations and schools about the judicial system and inspires students to chase their American Dream by sharing her personal story.

A Serving as a justice is like being a small town lawyer who handles a wide-array of cases involving a variety of legal issues. My 34 years of diverse experience prepared me to be a justice—from Domestic Relations Division trial court judge beginning in 1999, to serving the legal needs of families, juveniles, and the less fortunate as a solo practitioner beginning in 1991, and protecting the citizens of the City of Hamilton as a police officer.



Jennifer Brunner

Judge Jennifer Brunner is an elected state appellate judge in Ohio's tenth appellate district, located in Columbus. She and her husband, Rick, have spent the



pandemic on their farm in Columbiana County, where he grew up on a nearby dairy farm. Born in Springfield, Judge Brunner often stayed with her grandparents on their farm in Clark County and later in Jackson County when they retired to her grandfather's grandparents' farm. Judge Brunner actually knew her great-great grandmother as a child. Married for 42 years, she and her husband have three adult children and soon to be six

grandchildren. She loves birds, art and painting in encaustic and adores her grandchildren and dogs.

A Judge Jennifer Brunner was elected and served as Ohio's first woman secretary of state from 2007-2011, being awarded the bipartisan 2008 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for her work. Judge Brunner has been an attorney for 37 years, starting a law practice from the corner of her bedroom, with young children. She was twice elected a state trial judge in Franklin County, founding its drug court.

She holds international experience as an election observer in Egypt and as a USAID rule of law expert in Serbia and Sri Lanka. She is the author of Cupcakes and Courage, a book about women, politics and Ohio, chronicling her experiences in elected public life.





County court is one of Ohio's busiest, and during that time Judge O'Donnell has presided over more than 250 jury trials in felony criminal cases and civil lawsuits.

Judge O'Donnell has handled specialized dockets for felony defendants with serious mental illnesses and for civil commercial litigation. Judge O'Donnell has written at least 200 judicial opinions and has been a frequent presenter at continuing legal education programs. He has consistently been rated as "Excellent" in rankings decided by local bar associations whose members are the people most familiar with his work, and whose clients are affected by his decisions.

I have prepared for almost two decades to be a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court by presiding over thousands of criminal and civil lawsuits with common sense, compassion and professionalism. I have prepared to be a justice by conducting hundreds of criminal and civil jury trials according to the rules of evidence and procedure. I have prepared to be a justice by competently mediating hundreds of settlements between parties who never thought they could reach an agreement until they found a judge who listened to, and understood, their problems. I have prepared to be a justice by earning a reputation as an excellent trial court judge.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The four Supreme Court candidates were listed in their respective parties for the spring primary. However, general elections for Ohio Supreme Court seats are technically nonpartisan, so the candidates won't appear with party designations come November.
- Supreme Court candidates can hail from a range of backgrounds amongst Ohio's judiciary system.
- The Ohio Supreme Court is the state's highest court. The chief justice and six justices decide all state constitutional questions, cases involving questions of public or general interest, and all criminal appeals where the death penalty has been imposed. The Supreme Court also makes rules about the operation of the courts and the practice of law in Ohio, and it has the authority to discipline lawyers and judges for misconduct.

Thio Judicial Structure

SUPREME COURT

CHIEF JUSTICE AND SIX JUSTICES

Court of last resort on state constitutional questions of public or great general interest; appeals from the Board of Tax Appeals and Public Utilities Commission; all death sentences; original jurisdiction in select cases.

COURT OF APPEALS

TWELVE DISTRICTS, THREE-JUDGE PANELS

Appellate review of judgments of common pleas, municipal, and county courts; appeals from Board of Tax Appeals; original jurisdiction in select cases.

COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

IN EACH OF 88 COUNTIES

GENERAL	DOMESTIC		
DIVISION	RELATIONS		
Civil and	DIVISION		
criminal	Divorces and		
cases; appeals	dissolutions;		
from most	support and		
administrative	custody		
agencies.	of children.		
administrative	custody		

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DIVISION Offenses involving minors; most paternity

actions.

JUVENILE

Decedents' estates; mental illness; adoptions; marriage licenses.

PROBATE

DIVISION

COURT OF CLAIMS

JUDGES ASSIGNED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE

All suits against the state for personal injury, property damage, contract, and wrongful death; compensation for victims of crime. Threejudge panels upon request.

MUNICIPAL & COUNTY COURTS

Misdemeanor offenses; traffic cases; civil action up to \$15,000.

MAYOR'S COURTS

Not courts of record. Violations of local ordinances and state traffic laws. Matters can be reheard in municipal or county courts.

Voting in Judicial Elections

Judicial elections, and the candidates running in them, continue to be a mystery to Ohio voters. A majority of Ohio voters say that they skip voting in judicial elections because they do not know enough about the candidates. This is alarming, considering that the judiciary is integral to the working of our government as the third co-equal branch. In 2020, Ohio voters in every county will elect judges for county and common pleas courts, all 12 courts of appeals districts, and two seats on the Ohio Supreme Court. These judges affect the lives of Ohioans in many ways, from their main role of interpreting the law, to more routine functions like traffic citations and estate administration.

Judicial races often do not have the same amount of publicity as the other races on the ballot, tied in part to more stringent fundraising limitations. And, unlike candidates for political offices, judicial candidates are bound by a code of ethics enforced by the legal profession.

Before you step into the voting booth, take some time to familiarize yourself with what judicial seats you will be voting on and the candidates running. Then, do some research on those candidates just like you would for any other race.

Some things to pay attention to:

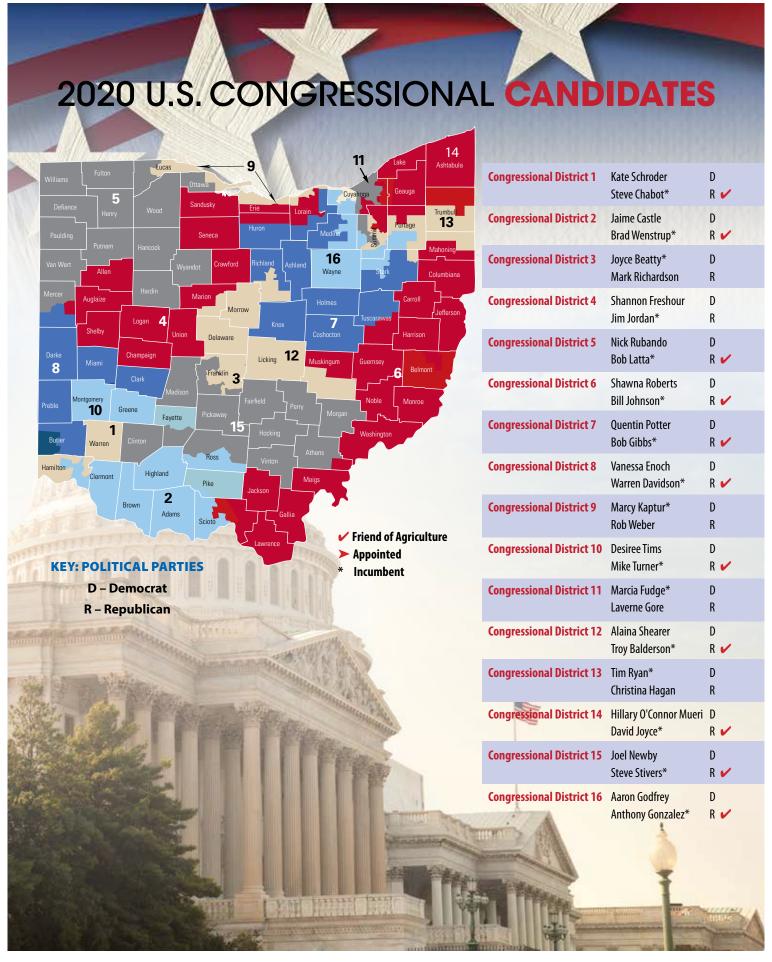
- Why is this candidate running for judicial office? This can often be found on their campaign website or social media presence, or by interacting with candidates at local candidate forums.
- What is the candidate's background? This includes where they went to law school, what type of

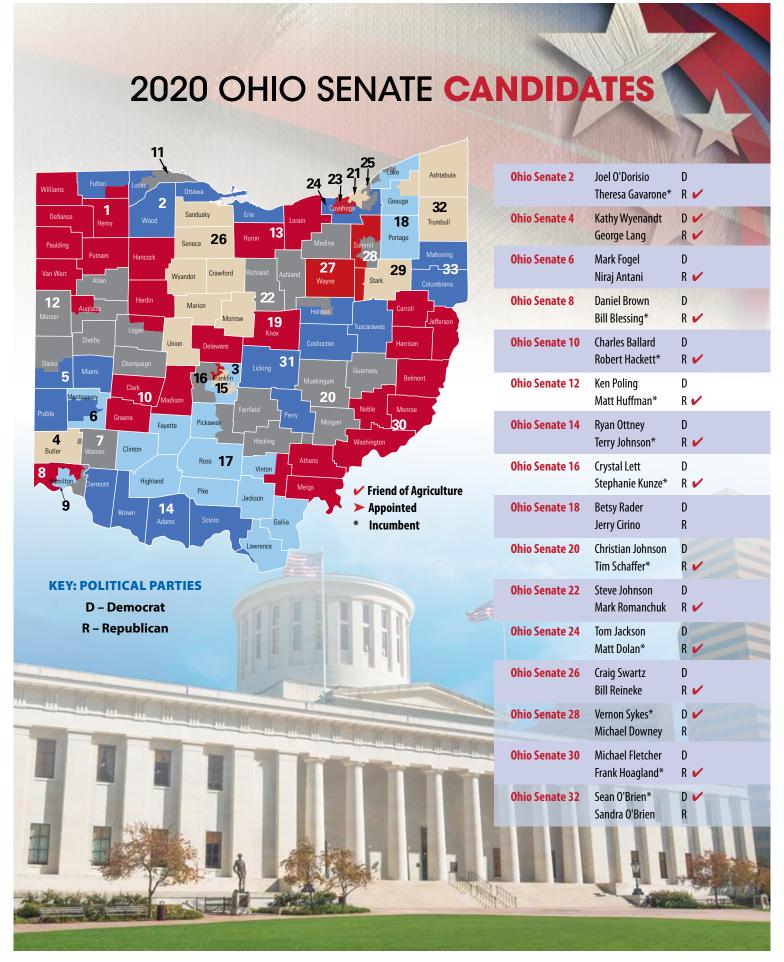
- legal experience they have had in the past, and how that contributes to the judicial role they are seeking.
- How is the candidate involved in your community? What organizations have they worked with that align with your values?
- Have they shown good character and temperament? Judges, particularly those at the local level, are often seeing people experiencing stressful and trying situations. It is important that the judiciary can treat them with calm respect to ensure confidence in the judicial system.

One struggle voters often have with judicial candidates is a lack of clear positions on specific issues. Voters may wonder where judges personally stand on specific issues like eminent domain or school funding, and may be frustrated that the candidates are not giving an answer to those types of questions. However, this is an important part of having a fair and impartial judicial system. Judges are prohibited from commenting on cases and controversies that may come before them, because it is their job to apply the law based on the facts at hand, regardless of their personal or political beliefs. Instead of specific issue positions, voters can ask judicial candidates about their judicial philosophy, or how the judge views different aspects of the law and decision-making.

A fair and impartial judiciary is a cornerstone of our government and a hallmark of our free society. As voters, it is our responsibility to look beyond the outcome and consider whether a judge had sound reasoning, based in law and fact, to bring about that decision.







2020 OHIO HOUSE CANDIDATES

All Developer Control			
Ohio House 1 Alison Theiss D Scott Wiggam* R ✓	Ohio House 15 Jeffrey Crossman* D ✓ Kevin Kussmaul R	Ohio House 28 Jessica Miranda* D ✓ Chris Monzel R	Ohio House 43 Amy Cox D Rodney Creech R ✓
Ohio House 2 Sam Grady D Marilyn John R ✓	Ohio House 16 Monique Smith D Dave Greenspan* R ✓	Ohio House 29 Cindy Abrams* R Ohio House 30	Ohio House 44 Paula Hicks-Hudson* D ✓ Robert McMahon R
Ohio House 3 Laurel Johnson D Haraz Ghanbari* R ✓	Ohio House 17 Adam Miller* D ✓ Tim Haske R	Bill Seitz* R Ohio House 31 Brigid Kelly* D	Ohio House 45 Lisa Sobecki* D ✓ Shane Logan R
Ohio House 4 Bob Cupp* R ✓ Ohio House 5	Ohio House 18 Kristin Boggs* D ✓ Kayla Packard R	Ohio House 32 Catherine Ingram* D	Ohio House 46 Michael Sheehy* D Steven Salander R
Daniel Winston D Tim Ginter* R ✓	Ohio House 19 Mary Lightbody* D ✓ Meredith Freedhoff R	Ohio House 33 Sedrick Denson* D Mary Hill R	Ohio House 47 Nancy Larson D Derek Merrin* R ✓
Ohio House 6 Phil Robinson* D ✓ Shay Hawkins R	Ohio House 20 Richard Brown* D Chris Baer R	Ohio House 34 Emilia Sykes* D ✓ Henry Todd R	Ohio House 48 Scott Oelslager* R ✓
Ohio House 7 Joan Sweeny D Tom Patton* R ✓	Ohio House 21 Beth Liston* D ✓ Mehek Cooke R	Ohio House 35 Tavia Galonski* D ✓ Jodi Sarver R	Ohio House 49 Thomas West* D ✓ James Haavisto R
Ohio House 8 Kent Smith* D ✓ Chris Litwinowicz R	Ohio House 22 David Leland* D Stephany Spencer R	Ohio House 36 Matt Shaughnessy D Bob Young R ✓	Ohio House 50 Brian Simeone D Reggie Stoltzfus* R ✓
Ohio House 9 Janine Boyd* D Dustin Russell R	Ohio House 23 Nancy Day-Achauer D	Ohio House 37 Casey Weinstein* D ✓ Beth Bigham R	Ohio House 51 Sara Carruthers* R ✓ Ohio House 52
Ohio House 10 Terrence Upchurch* D Ohio House 11	Laura Lanese* R ✓ Ohio House 24 Allison Russo* D	Ohio House 38 Joe Campbell D Bill Roemer* R	Chuck Horn D Jennifer Gross R Ohio House 53
Stephanie Howse* D Ohio House 12	Pat Manley R Ohio House 25 Dontavius Jarrells D	Ohio House 39 Willis Blackshear Jr. D	Michelle Novak D Thomas Hall R
Juanita Brent* D Jerry Powell R Ohio House 13	Jim Burgess R Ohio House 26 Erica Crawley* D	John Ferrell Mullins III R Ohio House 40 Leronda Jackson D	Ohio House 54 Morgan Showen D Paul Zeltwanger* R
Michael Skindell* D Daniel Harrington R Ohio House 14	Ohio House 27 Sara Bitter D	Phil Plummer* R Ohio House 41 Cate Berger D	Ohio House 55 Zach Stepp D Gayle Manning* R ✓
Bride Sweeney* D Lynn McMahan R	Tom Brinkman* R ✔	Andrea White R Ohio House 42 Tom Young R	Ohio House 56 Joseph Miller* D ✓ Bradley Lacko R
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2020 AGGPAC ELECTION GUIDE Defiance 82 88 Huron 57 Paulding 81 87 83 Van Wert 4 2 98 **Ohio House 57** Dara Adkison D 84 86 67 68 **72** 95 96 Dick Stein* R 🗸 85 **Ohio House 58** Michele Lepore-Hagan* D 80 79 **David Simon** 43 Ohio House 59 **78** Morgan Chris Stanley D Hockina Alessandro Cutrona* R 🗸 ✓ Friend of Agriculture Ohio House 60 Vinton Appointed **Daniel Troy** D 93 George Phillips R Incumbent 66 90 Scioto **Ohio House 61 Ohio House 90** Adam Dudziak D **Ohio House 71** Brian Baldridge* R 🗸 Jamie Callender* R 🗸 Mark Carr D **Ohio House 91** R Mark Fraizer* **Ohio House 62 Scott Dailey** D Erin Rosiello D **Ohio House 81 Ohio House 72** Shane Wilkin* Scott Lipps* R 🗸 R Larry Householder* James Hoops* R 🗸 Ohio House 92 Ohio House 63 **Ohio House 73 Ohio House 82** Beth Workman D Gil Blair* D Craig Riedel* Kim McCarthy D R 🗸 Mark Johnson R 🗸 R Mike Loychik R 🗸 **Brian Lampton Ohio House 83 Ohio House 93 Ohio House 64 Ohio House 74** Jon Cross* R 🗸 Jason Stephens* R 🗸 Michael O'Brien* D 🗸 Bill Dean* R **Ohio House 84 Ohio House 94** Martha Yoder R **Ohio House 75** Joe Monbeck Katie O'Neill D **Ohio House 65** D 🗸 Susan Manchester* Randi Clites* R 🗸 Jay Edwards* R 🗸 Alan Darnowsky D Gail Pavliga R **Ohio House 85 Ohio House 95** Jean Schmidt R **Ohio House 76** Nino Vitale* R Don Jones* R 🗸 **Ohio House 66 Garrett Westhoven** D **Ohio House 86 Ohio House 96** Adam Bird R 🗸 Diane Grendell* R 🗸 Tiffanie Roberts D Richard Olivito D 🗸 **Ohio House 67 Ohio House 77** R 🗸 Tracy Richardson* Ron Ferguson R Rachael Morocco D Melissa Wilde D **Ohio House 87 Ohio House 97** Kris Jordan* Jeff LaRe* R 🗸 **Nicholas Barnes** D Alaina Swope D Ohio House 68 **Ohio House 78** R 🗸 Riordan McClain* Adam Holmes* R 🗸 Steven Mount D Charlotte Owens D **Ohio House 88 Ohio House 98** Rick Carfagna* R 🗸 **Brian Stewart** Chris Liebold D 🗸 Todd Beegle D Ohio House 69 **Ohio House 79 Gary Click** R **Brett Hillyer*** R 🗸 Donna Beheydt D Cynthia Richards D **Ohio House 89** Ohio House 99 Sharon Ray R 🗸 Kyle Koehler* R 🗸 Alexis Miller D **Richard Dana** D 🗸 **Ohio House 70 Ohio House 80** D.J. Swearingen* R 🗸 R 🗸 Sarah Fowler **Kevin Barnet** D **Ted Jones** D Darrell Kick* R 🗸 Jena Powell* R Candidates may be subject to change before Election.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

AGGPAC

This guide is a publication of the Ohio Farm
Bureau Agriculture for
Good Government Political
Action Committee, and
brought to you by support
from our members.

Did you know, Friend of Agriculture designations featured in this guide are

determined by local county Farm Bureau members and the AGGPAC committee? Candidates who are designated a Friend of Agriculture have historically been elected to their selected office more than 90% of the time.

Through AGGPAC and support from our members, we can continue our proud grassroots tradition and make a difference in the conversations surrounding agriculture throughout our government.



96%

of all AGGPAC contributions are

\$5

or less.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

today by making a contribution, to help support farm-friendly candidates and issues.

Make your contribution today at FarmVotesMatter.org

