

2026
ELECTION
Guide

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Candidates may be subject to change before the election.

Ohio Governor Candidate



Vivek Ramaswamy (R), Gubernatorial Candidate

How do we balance the growth and development (energy, data centers, housing) of our state while protecting our farmland and preserving our agricultural heritage?

Economic growth and agricultural strength are not opposing goals, and I reject the false choice between building Ohio's future and protecting the industry that built our state in the first place. The real problem is our development model. Too often, government incentives steer megaprojects onto productive farmland. Then come the subdivisions, strip malls, and further developments that consume more farmland. Ohio deserves a smarter approach. JobsOhio should prioritize brownfields, abandoned industrial sites, and underused urban land where infrastructure and workers already exist. The state can help remediate these sites rather than subsidizing farmland destruction. At the same time, Ohio's economic development strategy must include attracting food, dairy, and crop processors and other uses for farmers' products. As a businessman, I understand how this will help farmers, whose margins are tighter now than ever, by creating more demand for their products.

What is the appropriate tax policy for Ohio?

Ohio's tax policy must reward work, investment, and stewardship, not punish the people who produce our food and build our communities. I will deliver the state's largest property-tax relief package (which will include farmers) by rolling back to levels from before the end of the pandemic. I will preserve and protect CAUV, because relief should be broad-based. In the meantime, I will set Ohio on the path to fully eliminating the state income tax, beginning with capital gains. Building on the successes of conservative leaders like my running mate, current Senate President Rob McColley, who got us to a flat 2.75% tax rate, Ohio will become the best state in America to work, invest, build, and farm. Finally, while some members of the opposing party support estate taxes and even wealth taxes, Rob and I will ensure that Ohio remains free from these punitive taxes, which were repealed under Republican leadership to protect family farms.

How would you address workforce shortages affecting farms, food processing, and agribusiness?

Workforce shortages won't be solved by a government task force, but rather by investing in the pipeline to agriculture while removing barriers to entry. Every Ohio student who wants agricultural education should have access to 4-H, FFA, career-technical programs, or work-based learning. Agricultural education should also include the entire supply chain, from farming to food processing, mechanics and logistics to veterinary medicine. Our land-grant universities and Extension programs should remain focused on producing the next generation of farmers, skilled workers, and large-animal veterinarians for Ohio. Ohio should also make it easier to build and expand processing facilities near farms. Stronger local supply chains create better-paying jobs and more reliable markets.

Ohio Governor Candidate

What is your approach to statewide regulations that impact livestock, grain, and dairy farms?

Ohio's regulatory policy should be fair and predictable. I support clean water, animal health, and property rights but I firmly reject the idea that farmers are to be presumed as polluters. H2Ohio offers the right model of partnership over punishment. Voluntary practices to reduce phosphorus runoff have begun to improve water quality in Lake Erie. We should continue funding what works, while recognizing that sewage, septic, and manufacturers also contribute to water-quality problems. CAFO thresholds should not become artificial ceilings on growth. Ohio should streamline permits, coordinate state and federal requirements, and give farms a clear path to expand when they meet objective environmental standards. Farmers understand that their operations are most profitable when they care for their animals humanely. The same principle applies to wetlands. Ohio EPA can protect genuine wetlands, but vague definitions and permitting delays shouldn't prevent farmers from using agricultural land.

How would you support beginning farmers and the next generation entering agriculture?

Instead of making it easier to become dependent on the government, we should make it easier to depend on your own hard work by enabling more young Ohioans to explore a career in agriculture. To increase access, I support programs like FFA, 4-H, agricultural education, our county and state fairs, apprenticeships, and work-based learning so young Ohioans see farming as a high-skill, high-tech career. I also support removing barriers, like permitting and property tax burdens. My plan to eliminate the capital gains tax will also make it easier for retiring farmers to transfer land and operations to the next generation.

How would you improve rural infrastructure for broadband, roads, and bridges?

The success of Ohio means the success of all parts of Ohio, including rural Ohio. Every part of our state deserves efficient infrastructure, not merely more bureaucratic promises. With rapid technological advances in agriculture, reliable broadband access is essential for our farmers to grow and thrive. I will direct existing public broadband funds to truly unserved areas, using competitive bidding, clear performance standards, and clawbacks when providers fail to deliver on their contracts. For roads and bridges, I will prioritize our current infrastructure and filling existing gaps instead of elaborate ribbon-cuttings. Northwest and southeast Ohio may need new routes, but not at the expense of the roads farmers, manufacturers, and rural families use today. Small rural governments often lack technical staff. I support the state providing shared or regionalized engineering, planning, and procurement support, without creating another permanent bureaucracy.

Scan this QR code to check out the Ohio Farm Bureau Podcast with gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy that was recorded on March 18, 2026.



Historically, Ohio Farm Bureau has not awarded Friends of Agriculture designations in the Gubernatorial races, or in the Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Auditor races.

Ohio Governor Candidate



Dr. Amy Acton (D), Gubernatorial Candidate

How do we balance the growth and development (energy, data centers, housing) of our state while protecting our farmland and preserving our agricultural heritage?

Ohio's farmland is part of who we are, and we have to protect it. As a preventive medicine physician, I know all too well the impact that our natural and built environment have on our health and wellbeing. Growth is necessary – in the areas of housing, energy, and capacity for emerging technologies like data centers – but it has to be done responsibly. I support legislative initiatives to understand the full impact of data centers on our communities, including their enormous water consumption, which directly threatens agricultural operations. Data centers should be held to the same environmental standards as our farmers. If our agricultural users have to meet a bar, data centers should too. I also support efforts to ensure that major energy consumers like data centers pay their fair share so that families aren't left on the hook. We should be prioritizing data center development on brownfields and already-developed land, not critical farmland. I support strengthening Ohio's Brownfield Remediation Program to incentivize development on previously

used industrial land, keeping new construction off farmland while revitalizing communities that need investment. Ohio's agricultural communities deserve a seat at the table when these decisions are made, and as governor, I'll make sure they have one. I'll fight for policies to address rising costs – expanding the child tax credit, protecting Medicaid, and growing the housing supply – without sacrificing the land and agricultural traditions that have sustained Ohio.

What is the appropriate tax policy for Ohio?

I support protecting and strengthening the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) program to ensure that farmland is taxed based on its agricultural value, not its development value. I also support reviewing the tax incentives that are encouraging the conversion of productive farmland for data centers and commercial purposes. We shouldn't be using Ohio's tax code to pave over the land that feeds our state. Ohio's tax code should reward the people who grow our food and build our communities, not billionaires and special interests. Ohio's tax policy should work for working families and family farms, not just the wealthy and well-connected. Ohio's current tax system places an unfair burden on regular Ohioans and small businesses while subsidizing the very rich. Not only does this mean higher taxes for farmers, it also threatens critical public services in farming communities. This is not fair to Ohio's farmers, who are already squeezed by rising input costs and uncertain markets. Ohio's property taxes are too high, in large part, because we have failed to adequately fund education and diverted billions of our tax dollars to private schools through an unaccountable school voucher scheme. To lower property taxes, the first thing we need to do is get our spending priorities straight. I also support measures to help working families with their property taxes, like an expanded homestead exemption.

How would you address workforce shortages affecting farms, food processing, and agribusiness?

Investing in apprenticeships and job training programs strengthens Ohio's workforce, helps keep young people in Ohio, and gives Ohioans pathways to careers. I'll champion and fully fund these programs as governor. This includes supporting career tech education and agriculture education programs, along with organizations like FFA and 4-H, to build a pipeline of young people who see a future in Ohio agriculture. As I travel across our state, I

Ohio Governor Candidate

also hear that the costs of health care, child care, and housing are rising faster than most families can keep up with. If we want to build a strong rural workforce, we have to address those basics – affordable child care, broadband access, and health care – in the communities where these workers live.

What is your approach to statewide regulations that impact livestock, grain, and dairy farms?

My approach to agricultural regulation is straightforward: regulations should be science-based, developed with farmers at the table, and applied equitably across all industries. Our regulations focus on keeping animals and plants healthy, and they also provide for effective food, dairy, and meat safety that help farmers and processors succeed. Ohio's livestock, grain, and dairy producers have been leading the way on conservation and water quality, and our regulatory framework should recognize that progress, not punish it. I support keeping animal care standards in the hands of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, where farmers and veterinarians – not politicians – set standards. I'll fight for WOTUS regulations that provide clarity without overreaching onto Ohio's farmland, and I'll protect our producers from frivolous lawsuits. I also support year-round E15, which strengthens demand for Ohio grain, supports jobs across the state, and gives consumers more options at the pump.

How would you support beginning farmers and the next generation entering agriculture?

As governor, my approach includes supporting career tech education and agriculture education programs – along with FFA, 4-H, and collegiate Farm Bureau chapters – to build a pipeline of young people who see a future in Ohio agriculture. I also support legislation like Senate Bill 120 to bring agricultural career awareness to urban youth, and Senate Bill 328 to strengthen early workforce development. Ohio is blessed to have two land-grant universities, and a strong agricultural program at Wilmington College. As governor, I will ensure these institutions continue to contribute to our agriculture pipeline, as well as ensure support

for our strong agriculture extension offices. Every young Ohioan, rural or urban, should have the opportunity to discover a career in agriculture and agribusiness. Getting into farming is harder than ever. Land is expensive, startup costs are high, and too many family farms don't have succession plans. I support strengthening farm succession planning so that family farms stay in the hands of families, and I'll work to protect agricultural easement programs and the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Program. We should also be expanding CDL training programs, startup funding for young agriculture entrepreneurs, and scholarships for students pursuing degrees in agriculture and agribusiness, removing the barriers that keep the next generation from getting started. Ohio's farmers feed this state and this country. If we don't invest in the next generation of Ohioans who want to carry that legacy forward, we'll lose something we can never get back.

How would you improve rural infrastructure for broadband, roads, and bridges?

Ohio received substantial funding for infrastructure improvements under the last presidential administration. As governor, I'll fight to keep these funds from being canceled or clawed back. I welcome community input on how we prioritize infrastructure projects like roads and bridges, and as governor I will ensure they are carried out by workers who are paid the prevailing wage. I'll continue investing in the rural roads and bridges that our agricultural communities depend on. Additionally, modern farming depends on reliable broadband for everything from agriculture to market access, so I'll ensure that high-speed internet expansion reaches every rural and underserved community in Ohio. As governor, I will work with local governments, small farms, and telecom companies to expand access across the state.

Scan this QR code to check out the Ohio Farm Bureau Podcast with gubernatorial candidate Dr. Amy Acton that was recorded on June 26, 2026.



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Senate Candidate



Jon Husted (R)*

How do you propose to expand domestic demand and support trade policy to better serve Ohio farmers?

Ohio's farmers produce the products that feed and fuel our nation, and I am proud to support policies in the U.S. Senate that better expand and sustain domestic markets. We produce billions in agricultural products every year, and I have consistently worked with the administration and Ohio's trading partners to ensure that the markets our farmers rely on remain open. The Working Families Tax Cuts Act was integral to funding export promotion programs that help Ohio's commodities compete in competitive global markets, and I was proud to support this legislation. I was proud to join a bipartisan group of Senators in calling on the United States Trade Representative to ensure that, as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement undergoes a review, there is a focus on reinforcing the existing terms of the agreement and the need to address outstanding trade barriers that disadvantage American agriculture. I joined a letter to the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, and the Treasury Department to encourage the federal government to reward farmers for conservation and regenerative practices regarding the 45Z clean fuel production credit. This production credit will give farmers access to important markets to sustain operations and thrive. I will continue working to ensure that Ohio's farmers have the market access that they rely on to support their families and our state's economy.

Given the recent focus on consumer choice with food purchases, how do we continue to support healthy food options while protecting the tools farmers use to grow food?

I believe that we can have both healthy food choices for American families and still support the tools that farmers need to supply those healthy foods. Modern crop protection tools are consistently reviewed by the EPA, and these science-backed inputs allow Ohio's farmers to produce food efficiently. I have submitted language to the Senate Appropriations Committee to encourage EPA to clear the backlog of pesticide approvals pending at the agency. Additionally, as part of my position on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee, I have the opportunity to question nominees who serve in the Department of Health and Human Services. Whenever a nominee has made comments about the alleged dangers presented by pesticides, I am sure to raise those comments as a concern. I believe that the leading healthcare voices in our administration must understand the important role pesticides play in producing the healthy, whole foods Americans need to be healthy.

What is your position on estate tax and capital gains policies affecting family farms?

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act aims to deliver meaningful relief to Ohio's farmers. I was proud to help eliminate the death tax from family farms by supporting the Working Family Tax Cuts Act. I was also proud to be a cosponsor of the standalone legislation to eliminate the estate tax, S. 587, the Death Tax Repeal Act. No farmer should have to sell off land that's been in their family for generations just to pay a tax bill when they pass it down to their children.

How would you address labor shortages in agriculture and food processing?

I consistently hear from farmers and other employers that the lack of efficiency when it comes to seasonal visas causes delays and labor shortages. On several occasions, I have encouraged USCIS and Dept. of State to provide clarity on the release of these visas so Ohio's farmers and businesses can better understand their workforce needs.

Senate Candidate

What is your approach to federal environmental regulations impacting farms?

In my role on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I have been focused on tackling a challenge that continues to impact Ohio's farmers and rural economy: fixing our broken permitting system. I always say time is money, and the time it takes to permit projects costs Ohio's agricultural sector both. Federal permitting shouldn't take years; it should enable growth, not slow it down. My goal with any permitting reform is simple: make America the best place in the world to build, invest, and innovate. Ensuring projects remain on time and on target means Ohio's farmers have access to innovative tools to

be more productive and the infrastructure to sustain and grow their operations. I introduced the Water Authority and Timely Environmental Review (WATER) Act of 2025 to streamline the permitting process for water projects and provide much needed regulatory certainty for Ohio's farmers. I also worked with members on the Environment and Public Works Committee to elevate the work of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on a revision of the definition of Waters of the United States to give farmers clear and predictable rules to comply with the Clean Water Act. Preserving Ohio's farmers' right to manage their land how they see fit is critical, and I'll continue fighting for policies that allow them to do just that.

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Senate Candidate



Sherrod Brown (D)

1. How do you propose to expand domestic demand and support trade policy to better serve Ohio farmers?

I have always been a leader in the promotion and development of new and existing biofuels by supporting year-around E15 usage, sustainable aviation fuels, biomass-based biofuels, marine biofuels, and promoting American produced feedstocks for all biofuels.

Year-round E15: Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA has traditionally barred the sale of E15 during the summer because of how ethanol reacts in the heat. I have repeatedly called for the EPA to annually waive this requirement and allow for the year-round sale of E15, which they did between 2022 - 2024. In 2023, I joined a bipartisan group of farm state senators to introduce the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, which would have permanently allowed for the sale of year-around E15 without needing annual waivers. The other month, I also met with farmers at POET – Marion to tour their bioprocessing plant and talk about why year round E15 is essential.

Being Smarter on Biofuels: Biofuels are the primary way to utilize increased corn and soybean yields for market development. I have always been a leader in the promotion and development of new and existing biofuels by supporting year-around E15 usage and sustainable aviation fuels, and promoting American produced feedstocks for all biofuels and marine biofuels.

American Farmers Feed the World: We must make sure that we are feeding Americans with American grown and raised foods as much as possible. We import too much food from other countries that lack the food safety, environmental, and labor standards that American farmers follow. I support policies that level the playing field for American producers and prioritize American grown and raised food.

Foreign Trade: Smart trade policy that promotes both development of new foreign markets and increased access to existing markets is critical. Foreign market development and market access programs means people around the world are buying food grown and processed in Ohio. USDA's market access and development programs are important to helping farmers pivot away from China and compete with countries like Brazil and Argentina that are trying to supplant American producers. Programs like this help Ohio farmers tell the story about how and why Ohio crops are superior.

2. Given the recent focus on consumer choice with food purchases, how do we continue to support healthy food options while protecting the tools farmers use to grow food?

Ohio farmers are the world's best farmers. When we help Ohioans buy local foods, we help them make smart, healthy, and affordable choices. Local food is about creating markets, putting more money in farmers pockets, making it easier to eat healthier, and feeding your neighbors. Nobody has done more in the Senate to help Ohio farmers keep more profits and ensure consumers have access to healthy, local options than I have.

Local FARMS Act: The key pieces of my bill were included in the 2018 Farm Bill. This bill called for the creation of the Local Agriculture Market Program, which is the primary vehicle through which the USDA supports local food, providing funding to expand farmers markets, farmstands, agritourism, and value-added agriculture opportunities. It also created the USDA Produce Prescription Program, which is supporting efforts across the country to expand Food is Medicine Coalition initiatives.

Senate Candidate

Local Food Farms and Jobs Act: The key pieces of my bill were included in the 2014 Farm Bill and resulted in the creation of the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion program, which provides incentives to SNAP recipients to purchase fresh produce from farmers. This bill also reauthorized the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and the Value Added Producer Grant Program.

Kids Eat Local Act: I introduced this bipartisan bill to cut regulatory red tape and make it easier for schools to purchase local food.

Farm to School Act: I introduced this bipartisan bill to expand the existing USDA Farm to School grant program. American Food for American Schools Act: I introduced this bipartisan bill to help tighten up USDA “buy American” rules for school meals and support local food being served in schools.

3. What is your position on estate tax and capital gains policies affecting family farms?

We must do everything we can to protect and help support family farms — family farms belong with the family that has worked the land for generations. Farmers are fiscally responsible. They save for the future and they only borrow when doing so is a smart investment that makes them more competitive and resilient. Borrowing to buy a new combine or erect a new pole barns, while expensive, increases long-term revenue and profitability. Tax and spending policy should make our nation more efficient and prosperous. Tax cuts that benefit the wealthy few and do not support national prosperity should be rejected. As we consider tax policy, I will support policies that protect family farms. Additionally, I will work to ensure our tax code supports and builds markets for farmers. For example, rewriting the Production Tax Credit (PTC) can expand the use of clean, domestic renewable fuels. Other tax provisions can be used to support markets for renewable chemicals. I am also interested in other tax provisions that help beginning farmers and which promote responsible conservation practices.

The average age of Ohio's farmers is increasing. Smart credits could support the next generation of farmers. And Ohioans across the state want clean water and soil — we can help reward farmers who protect these invaluable resources.

4. How would you address labor shortages in agriculture and food processing?

Addressing the farm and food sector labor shortage is imperative if we are going to support Ohio farmers. Ohio farmers are aging rapidly and any effort to address the farm labor shortage begins with supporting beginning farmers and ranchers. Barriers to entry are high and as a result many aspiring farmers lack the ability to follow their dreams and begin a life on the farm. That is why, throughout my career, I have supported programs that provide economic opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers. By enabling the next generation of farmers, we can help current farmers ensure that their farms will continue for generations to come. Enabling the next generation also means investing in our land grants and cooperative extension. Through 4-H programs run by OSU Cooperative Extension thousand of young Ohioans are learning about future career paths in agriculture, food technology and processing.

5. What is your approach to federal environmental regulations impacting farms?

I have had the privilege of traveling all across Ohio and hearing directly from the farmers and rural communities who are hard at work to keep our agricultural economy alive. Farmers don't just own their land — they care for it for future generations. Farmers want to be partners in the effort to protect the land they till, the water they drink, and the air they breathe. One-size-fits-all approaches rarely work, but by listening to Ohio farmers, I have worked to create programs that support farmers as they work to protect the soil, water, and air that is essential for all of us.

Ohio Supreme Court Candidate



Marilyn Zayas (D)

I am the best candidate for our Ohio Supreme Court because I bring extensive appellate court experience, strong analytical problem-solving skills, and a proven record of deciding more than 2,000 appeal cases based on the law, not politics or hidden agendas. That record has earned me the support of attorneys and community leaders from across the political spectrum. My priority is to restore public confidence in our courts through an unwavering commitment to an independent, predictable judiciary that serves all the people of Ohio, including farmers, families, and businesses that are the backbone of Ohio's agricultural economy. I am also the only candidate running for this seat for our Supreme Court whose campaign is completely free of corporate interest funding, including the energy, insurance and financial industries. That independence allows me to remain accountable only to the law and the people of Ohio, ensuring transparency, impartiality, and equal justice to you.

Rooted in Hard Work and Agricultural Values

My deep commitment to accountability and fairness comes from the values instilled by my mother. My mother grew up in a rural community where her family share-cropped the land and lived without indoor plumbing. From her, I learned that with perseverance, hard work, and integrity, anyone can

achieve their dreams. Those lessons taught me consistency and predictability which are the pillars of our legal system and provide fairness in our laws.

A Political Outsider Restoring Public Trust

I wasn't always a judge. I first ran for judge as a true political outsider; I had no political experience or connections. Before becoming a judge, attorneys told me they were frustrated because they didn't believe their clients always received a fair hearing. I made it my mission to change that by deciding cases based solely on the law and facts, not on politics or special interests. I have helped transform their prior frustration, by focusing on impartial justice and greater efficiency. Attorneys across Ohio now tell me they look forward to appearing in my court because, win or lose, their clients receive a fair shake. I am dedicated to bringing this same approach to the Ohio Supreme Court, where its impact will benefit the entire state. I am also committed to partnering with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to expand those specialized dockets that are proven to better address the mental health and addiction crises that affect all of our communities. Ohio currently ranks as the 9th highest state in drug overdose deaths. These specialized dockets combine personal accountability with partnerships that are created between the court and service providers. But these courts are still not available throughout Ohio, particularly in rural and Appalachian communities. Having grown up in a community ravaged by drugs and crime, I have seen firsthand the devastation these issues cause families and communities. I love Ohio and am dedicated to keeping our state safe, stable, and prosperous for all families.

Education as a Gateway to Opportunity

I am a proud product of public education. My mother, who had only a seventh-grade education and worked in a sewing factory, taught me that education was the greatest inheritance she could give her children. Thanks

Ohio Supreme Court Candidate

to her sacrifices and the great teachers I had, I rose from a high-crime neighborhood to become a Procter & Gamble IT manager and later an attorney and an elected appellate judge. I deeply value education as a foundation for opportunity. In 2017, I launched the “Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Program,” which has now reached over 2,000 students across Ohio. Through it, I teach high school, undergraduate and law school students about our court system while sharing my personal journey, inspiring them to dream big.

Accountability and Transparency on Data Centers and Corporate Interests

Ohio’s agricultural communities face growing pressure from large-scale data center developments that can impact farmland, water resources, and local infrastructure. I am the only candidate for this position who has accepted \$0 from corporate interests, including the energy, insurance and financial industries. Over nearly ten years as an appellate judge, reviewing the full spectrum of trial court decisions, I have earned a reputation for independence, fairness and common sense. Attorneys from across the political spectrum support me because they know I decide cases based on the law, the facts, and the Constitution, not hidden agendas. As a justice of the Supreme Court, I will vote to hold all parties accountable according to the law. Farmers and communities deserve the ability to determine what is best for their land, with full transparency in decisions regarding data centers. I will apply existing statutes as written, ensuring no favoritism toward corporate interests at the expense of Ohio’s farming heritage.

Upholding Environmental and Water Quality Protections

Clean water and fertile soil are the bedrock of Ohio’s agricultural economy. I will steadfastly uphold our state’s environmental statutes to prevent contamination and protect productive farmland. My independence ensures that when property rights or environmental protection are at stake, I will apply the law strictly and fairly, independent of special interests.

Proven, Trusted, Independent Experience

I have served as an elected judge on Ohio’s Court of Appeals for ten years, deciding more than 2,000 cases across Ohio. When Supreme Court justices recuse themselves from a case, the Chief Justice selects a replacement from among Ohio’s 69 appellate judges. Last year, our Chief Justice selected me three times in a 40-day period, an unprecedented honor that reflects the trust in my record as a judge. I bring a practical, evidence-based approach to the bench, informed by my background in technology, public service, and the law. My personal and professional experiences provide a rare combination: deep roots in Ohio’s values and hard work, problem-solving experience, and a proven judicial record completely independent of political and corporate influence. Ohio deserves a Supreme Court Justice who is committed to fairness, stability, and the rule of law, and who believes that safe, clean, and prosperous communities are the foundation of a stronger Ohio. I am that judge, and I humbly ask for the support of Ohio Farm Bureau members and all who value independent justice.

Ohio Supreme Court Candidates



Dan Hawkins (R)*

I am the best person to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court because I bring extensive courtroom experience (including the last two years on the Ohio Supreme Court), a proven record of fairness, and a firm commitment to respecting the Constitution

and applying the law as written. Ohio's farmers, landowners, and agricultural businesses depend on a legal system that is stable, predictable, and respectful of property rights, contracts, and the proper limits of government authority. Agriculture is not only a way of life in Ohio; it is also a major part of our economy. Farmers make expensive long-term decisions about land, equipment, employees, succession planning, and investment. They deserve courts that provide clarity. While judges should never promise outcomes in particular cases, they should bring discipline, consistency, and an understanding that court decisions can have real consequences for families, businesses, and communities across the state. As a Justice, I would respect the separation of powers, carefully review every case, and ensure that individuals and organizations receive a fair and impartial hearing. I will continue to provide a steady, independent voice on the Court and to uphold the rule of law in a way that gives Ohioans, including those in the agricultural community, confidence that their rights and responsibilities will be treated fairly.



Colleen O'Donnell (R)

Why are you the best candidate to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court?

I have the background, temperament, and experience to serve capably on the Supreme Court of Ohio. I have more than ten years of prior judicial experience, between serving on the

Franklin County Common Pleas Court, where I tried 100+ cases to verdict and put hundreds of felons behind bars; and serving as a federal Immigration Judge, where I never granted asylum a single time. In addition to my prior judicial experience, I served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection section; I worked in private practice at the law firm of Carpenter Lipps LLP; and served in the office of the Federal Energy Advocate at the PUCO. As a law and order candidate, I am committed to upholding the rule of law, protecting public safety, and interpreting the law as enacted rather than legislating from the bench. I am personally acquainted with all members of the Court, and I can work with them in a collegial and professional manner. This will help instill public confidence in the decisions of the Court, and to enhance the public perception and image of the Court statewide. If I am elected to the Supreme Court of Ohio, I pledge to serve with integrity, instill public confidence in the Court's decisions, and make the law predictable and consistent for all Ohioans. I would be honored to have the support of the Ohio Farm Bureau.

Ohio Supreme Court Candidates



Jennifer Brunner (D)*

As a sitting Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, I see justice mattering well beyond courtrooms—I think about families where it all starts. I have been married for more than 48 years, raised three children, welcomed three foster children to our family, and am blessed with six grandchildren—and more pets than I can count! I split my time between our farm near Homeworth, Ohio in Columbiana County, and Columbus, where I grew up, attended public schools, and graduated from an Ohio public university. Living on our farm has helped me understand even more about rural living than I learned on weekends as a child at my grandparents' farm

in Clark County. I respect the individuals who work the soil and take chances others would not take. I respect those who support them. I watch every season anticipating what will be planted in the spring and what cover crops will go in in the fall. My husband and I watch smaller farms give up their milk cows, understanding how hard that life is. Farmers, landowners, families, and businesses deserve respect from Ohio's courts. I am privileged to have served Ohioans at all three levels of Ohio's judiciary—as a common pleas trial judge in Franklin County and an appellate judge in two courts the Tenth District Court of Appeals, and as a Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. I served in nonjudicial office as Ohio's 52nd Secretary of State, supervising statewide elections and managing business records, when in 2008, my work was recognized nationally with the bipartisan John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for courage in the commitment to the rule of law and public service. Serving as a Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court means a great deal to me. I work to help people every day with decisions I make. The endorsement of the Ohio Farm Bureau would mean a lot to my family and me, and I would be grateful for your re-election support. I want to continue to serve all Ohioans with fairness, equality and respect and with steadfast commitment to the Constitution for all.

KEY: POLITICAL PARTIES

R – Republican
D – Democrat

✓ Friend of Agriculture
➤ Appointed
* Incumbent

Use the key to the left to navigate parties, incumbent status and Friend of Agriculture designations in races where screening and review committees made those designations.

Attorney General Candidates



Keith Faber (R)

What specific actions will your office take to ensure Ohio remains a national leader in food production and farming? What personal or professional experiences have shaped your understanding of Ohio agriculture and rural communities? Why are farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Ohio important to the future of our state?

Agriculture remains Ohio's number one industry, and Farmers and Ohio's ag-economy are fundamental for the future of Ohio. After years of representing Ohio's leading agricultural areas in the legislature, I understand how

important agriculture is to Ohio's culture and long-term success. As Attorney General, I'll defend Ohio laws that protect producers, landowners, and rural communities; enforce antitrust and consumer-protection laws against fraud, price manipulation, and deceptive practices; support clear, science-based environmental enforcement that protects water without punishing responsible farms; and work with prosecutors and sheriffs on rural crime, equipment theft, and supply-chain threats. I will also aggressively use all of the tools of the Attorney General's Office to push back against other states and interest groups who want to externally dictate Ohio's agriculture practices. Farmers need certainty, fairness, and a state government that understands that food security is economic security.

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Attorney General Candidates



John Kulewicz (D)

An economic engine

Agriculture is the backbone of rural Ohio communities, a major economic engine for our state, and a key reason

Ohio remains both competitive and a leader nationally. From family farms to agribusinesses, food processing, equipment manufacturing, grain handling, livestock production, and renewable fuels, agriculture supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in Ohio and billions of dollars in economic activity every year. As Attorney General, my job would not be to run farm policy from Washington-style bureaucracy. My job will be to ensure Ohio farmers and agribusinesses have a fair legal environment in which to operate, grow, and pass their operations on to the next generation. That means protecting property rights, enforcing contracts fairly, defending Ohio producers against unfair market practices, and making sure rural Ohio is not ignored when state legal decisions are made.

Priorities that put you first

First, I would aggressively combat foreign cyberattacks, fraud, and intellectual property theft targeting Ohio agriculture and agribusinesses. Modern agriculture depends on technology, precision data, and global markets. Protecting Ohio agriculture today means protecting rural businesses from digital threats and organized scams that increasingly target rural communities and farmers. Second, I would strengthen consumer confidence in Ohio agriculture by ensuring laws are enforced fairly and consistently. Ohio farmers already produce, and our rural communities process, some of the safest, highest-quality food in the world. I will partner with the Ohio Department of Agriculture as we ensure our regulatory environment is transparent, science-based, and predictable. Our consumers deserve the confidence and predictability in our food supply that our farmers and rural communities provide. Third, I have the utmost respect for the office of sheriff in our rural counties. These officials are the epicenter of service in both large and small counties and are respected throughout. They and their employees deserve an Attorney General who has their back. I will work closely with and stand behind our county sheriffs, as well as local law enforcement,

local prosecutors, and state agencies, to combat rural crime. Theft of equipment, fuel, chemicals, livestock, and grain has become increasingly sophisticated and costly. Organized crime also sees our rural areas as fertile ground for expansion. Rural Ohio deserves the same level of law enforcement attention and public safety resources as our urban areas. Fourth, I would defend Ohio's right to shape agricultural policy that reflects our state's realities. Too often, one-size-fits-all federal mandates fail to recognize the diversity of Ohio agriculture. I believe Ohio farmers should have a strong voice in decisions involving water quality, land use, energy policy, labor regulations, and environmental enforcement. Additionally, rising property values and development pressure are pricing farmers have the potential to push farmers off land their families have worked and owned for generations. Programs like CAUV are a lifeline, and I will defend them aggressively in court and stand up for property rights when they're threatened. I will also use my platform as Attorney General to push for property tax reform so that CAUV savings are truly "savings." Fifth, I would support the next generation of Ohio agriculture by protecting farmland preservation tools, defending agricultural education opportunities, and supporting legal pathways that help young farmers enter the industry. I have had the good fortune over the years to meet so many of our young leaders in 4-H, Vocational Ag, and FFA, and I am so impressed by these organizations and their members all across the state. I know that our future is in good hands because I have seen the hard work, commitment, and dedication of all those involved in preparing our youth for the challenges agriculture and our rural communities face. As Attorney General, I'll be standing by their side to ensure we hold on to our family farms.

On your side

As Attorney General, I will be on your side, fighting the scams, corporate and government overreach, and policies that leave you behind. Because if Ohio is going to remain a national leader in agriculture, we need to start by standing up for the people who make it possible and making sure the system finally works for you again. As Attorney General, I would make sure rural Ohio has a seat at the table. Not as an afterthought, but as a priority. Ohio agriculture and the rural communities it supports deserve an Attorney General who understands that protecting farmers means protecting Ohio's economy, food security, and way of life.

Secretary of State Candidate



Robert Sprague (R)

1. What specific actions will your office take to ensure Ohio remains a national leader in food production and farming?

Most people don't realize how directly the Secretary of State's office touches agriculture. It's where Ohio's farms, family LLCs, agricultural cooperatives, and agribusinesses are formed, registered, and kept in good standing — the front door to doing business in this state. My first commitment is to make that door easy to walk through: faster, simpler business formation and filings, modernized digital platforms, and far less paperwork, so producers can spend their time growing food instead of fighting forms. From there, I'll make the office a genuine partner to farm country. That means using its reach to connect agricultural producers and rural small businesses with the grants, loans, and technical resources already available — bringing the same cost-cutting, access-expanding approach I championed as Treasurer. It means working hand in hand with the legislature, the Department of Agriculture, and my fellow statewide officeholders to clear the regulatory barriers that fall hardest on family farms. And it means showing up: I'll be out across rural Ohio — on the farms, at the county fairs, with the commodity groups—listening to what's working and what isn't, because that's how you build policy that actually fits. Finally, agriculture's voice in our democracy must be protected. Secure, accurate elections and practical voting options for rural communities — where polling places are farther apart and ballots often travel by mail — make sure that when farm country speaks, it's heard loud and clear. Election integrity and rural access aren't in tension; done right, each strengthens the other.

2. What personal or professional experiences have shaped your understanding of Ohio agriculture and rural communities?

I grew up in Findlay, in Hancock County — farm country — where agriculture isn't an abstraction, it's the rhythm of daily life. That's where I learned respect for how hard the work is and how thin the margins can be. As Findlay's auditor and treasurer, then in the Ohio House, and now as State Treasurer, I've seen how completely our small towns and local economies depend on a strong ag sector. As Treasurer, I didn't watch from Columbus — I spent real time on the road with farmers and ag leaders, and I kept hearing the same thing: the cost of getting a crop in the ground was climbing and financing it was getting harder. We took one of the best tools the office has, the Ag-LINK program, and rebuilt it for modern agriculture. Ag-LINK has served Ohio's farm community since 1986. The way it works is straightforward: the Treasurer's office places a deposit with a farmer's bank or farm-credit lender at a below-market rate, and the lender passes that savings straight through as a lower interest rate on the operating loan — up to three percentage points, with a guaranteed minimum one-percent discount we put in place. That's real money off the top for feed, seed, fertilizer, fuel, and equipment. Through our Ohio Gains reforms (House Bill 440), we modernized the program top to bottom: we raised the loan cap from \$150,000 to \$500,000 so it fits a modern operation, opened it to cooperatives, and replaced a single short application window with year-round access — resetting the cap and the rate reduction each quarter to track real conditions. And when disaster hit — drought, flooding, avian flu — we opened enhanced relief windows to rush capital to the farmers and counties that needed it most. That same conviction shaped how I served rural small business. I expanded low-cost lending through GrowNOW and built its successor, the Buckeye Business Advantage, to keep cutting borrowing costs for the small employers who anchor our small towns — the implement dealers, processors, and Main Street businesses that rise and fall with the farm economy. The thread through all of it is simple: listen to the people doing the work, then deliver tools that meet them where they are.

Secretary of State Candidate

3. Why are farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Ohio important to the future of our state?

Agriculture is the foundation of Ohio's economy and our way of life. It generates tens of billions in economic activity, supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, and keeps Ohio among the nation's leaders in food production — from our corn and soybean fields to our livestock, dairy, and poultry, and the value-added processors who turn raw commodities into finished goods. When agriculture is strong, the whole state is steadier. But it's bigger than the balance sheet. Rural Ohio carries the values the rest of the state runs on — hard

work, stewardship of the land, faith, and strong families. These communities keep our small towns vibrant, hold our food supply secure when the wider world turns uncertain, and pass down a way of life worth protecting. A state that forgets its farmers loses something it can't easily get back. If I'm fortunate enough to serve as Secretary of State, I'll keep fighting to keep our farms profitable, our rural communities strong, our food supply secure, and our agricultural economy innovative for the next generation. The Ohio Farm Bureau has been a valued partner in that work, and I look forward to building on that relationship for years to come.

Secretary of State Candidate



Allison Russo (D)

As Secretary of State, my focus will be on ensuring state government acts as an efficient partner—not a bureaucratic roadblock—to Ohio's

agricultural economy. Our farmers and agribusinesses operate on tight margins and strict seasonal timelines; they cannot afford to be held up by outdated state processes.

First, I will modernize and streamline the business filings registry. We will ensure that family farms, agricultural cooperatives, and new agtech startups can register, update, and maintain their corporate compliance quickly and securely through an intuitive, reliable online portal.

Second, ensuring Ohio remains a leader means protecting the voice of the people who power this industry. I will work hand-in-hand with our 88 County Boards of Elections to ensure rural counties have the resources, funding, and security infrastructure they need to keep voting secure and accessible. We must protect localized access to polling places and ensure that spread-out, rural communities face no unnecessary hurdles when making their voices heard at the ballot box.

Finally, I am committed to running an office built on absolute transparency and integrity. I will actively combat the election disinformation that chips away at community trust, ensuring that every Ohio farmer has clear, unvarnished access to ballot information and can have full confidence that our elections are fair, secure, and accurate.

My understanding of Ohio's diverse communities is shaped by a career spent listening to everyday Ohioans, looking at hard data, and working to find practical solutions to real-world problems. For more than two decades before entering public service, I worked as a public health researcher and epidemiologist, advising policymakers on the structural

healthcare and financial needs of seniors, veterans, and vulnerable populations. That background taught me to look past political noise and focus entirely on how policy impacts a family's day-to-day security and well-being.

During my time in the Ohio General Assembly, and specifically during my tenure as House Democratic Leader, I have traveled across this state and worked closely with lawmakers representing every corner of Ohio. I've sat at kitchen tables and in local diners outside our major metro areas, listening to families talk about the issues that keep them up at night—from the lack of reliable rural broadband and the consolidation of local healthcare infrastructure to the funding shortages facing their local public schools.

I've also been proud to stand on the front lines defending direct democracy for all Ohioans. When I helped lead the fight to defeat the August 2023 Issue 1 proposal, it wasn't a partisan battle; it was about protecting the constitutional rights of everyday citizens. Whether you live in a suburban neighborhood or manage a multi-generational family farm, the citizen referendum is your ultimate tool to keep Columbus politicians accountable. That fight solidified my commitment to ensuring state government remains fair, transparent, and responsive to every single person in Ohio, regardless of their zip code.

The future of Ohio depends entirely on the health of our rural communities. Agriculture is not just a legacy industry; it is a multi-billion dollar economic powerhouse that serves as the bedrock of our state's entire economy. When our family farms and local agribusinesses are thriving, they create a ripple effect that builds strong local supply chains, supports small-business main streets, and fuels financial stability across all of Ohio.

But beyond the clear economic metrics, our agricultural communities are fundamental to our independence and self-reliance as a state. The security of our food supply and the

Secretary of State Candidate

preservation of our natural resources rely on the stewardship of Ohio's farmers.

A healthy, functioning democracy requires that everyone has a seat at the table. For too long, political divisions have been used to pit different parts of our state against one another. The truth is, we are one Ohio. The unique challenges,

insights, and innovations coming out of rural Ohio are vital to shaping statewide policy. As Secretary of State, my core philosophy is 'one person, one vote.' I am running to ensure that the diverse interests of rural Ohioans are fairly represented, that their businesses are supported, and that their fundamental right to a fair, accessible, and unbiased democratic process is fiercely protected.

Ohio Treasurer Candidates



Jay Edwards (R)

What specific actions will your office take to ensure Ohio remains a national leader in food production and farming?

As Ohio Treasurer, I will use every tool available to the office to support Ohio's agricultural economy. That means prioritizing access to capital for farmers and agribusinesses through the Treasurer's investment and financial programs, ensuring Ohio's farm operations large and small can secure the financing they need to grow and weather difficult seasons. I will also be a vocal advocate within the state government for policies that protect farmland, preserve rural infrastructure, and reduce the financial burdens placed on Ohio's producers. Ohio's \$124 billion agriculture industry is a point of immense pride, and my office will be a partner, not a bystander, in protecting its future.

What personal or professional experiences have shaped your understanding of Ohio agriculture and rural communities?

I was raised in and have spent my career representing rural southeastern Ohio, a part of the state where agriculture

isn't just an industry, it's a way of life. As a state legislator, I fought alongside farmers, small business owners, and rural families to make sure their voices were heard in Columbus. I've sat at kitchen tables and walked fields across our state. I understand that rural Ohio operates differently than our urban centers, and that the Treasurer's office must be responsive to those differences. These aren't abstract policy questions for me. They are the lived experiences of the people I've served and will continue to serve.

Why are farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Ohio important to the future of our state?

Ohio cannot thrive without a thriving rural Ohio. Agriculture feeds our families, anchors our rural economies, and connects Ohio to a heritage of hard work and self-reliance that defines who we are as a state. Agribusinesses create jobs, drive exports, and generate tax revenue that funds schools and infrastructure across every county. As Treasurer, I will never lose sight of the fact that protecting Ohio's farm economy is protecting Ohio's future. Farmers take on enormous risk every single season and they deserve a Treasurer who takes that seriously and puts the full weight of the office behind them.

Ohio Treasurer Candidates



Seth Walsh (D)

What specific actions will your office take to ensure Ohio remains a national leader in food production and farming?

Our farmers are being hit harder than ever by economic and environmental issues. Republicans' disastrous policies have only made these issues worse and hurt our farmers even more. From tariffs to large budget cuts of the Department of Agriculture, it has been tough for our farmers the last year and a half. Ohio is one of the country's leaders in food production and farming and we need to help our farmers not harm them. As state treasurer, I will make the necessary and proper investments in our rural towns and farming communities so we can keep Ohio's farmers competitive in the global market. This includes making sure these rural communities have the infrastructure they need to be successful, from expanding broadband and internet access to keeping our rural hospitals up and running. As state treasurer I will protect property rights and lean on experts in the agriculture community to help shape my policies. Ohio is home to the best farmers in the world and we must make the necessary and smart investment to keep Ohio as the top producer in the country.

What personal or professional experiences have shaped your understanding of Ohio agriculture and rural communities?

On the campaign trail I have made many stops in our rural communities and you see the struggle that our rural communities face but you also see the resilience and

determination these people have. One stop in particular I think about often is when I visited Adams County and the Adams County Regional Medical Center. This hospital is one of the 11 rural Ohio hospitals "at-risk" of closing due to Republican's Big Beautiful Bill. This is the unfortunate reality for rural communities all over the state of Ohio. Our farmers and rural communities thrive not just when they are economically successful but also when they are healthy. These hospital closures put millions of people at risk and endanger everyone. Republicans want to keep making budget cuts and take away healthcare from people who truly need it. We need to invest in Main Street not Wall Street. When I am state treasurer I will make sure we invest our money into rural communities so they can thrive and be healthy and not be left behind.

Why are farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Ohio important to the future of our state?

Farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Ohio are all crucial to the future of our state. Programs like AG-LINK have supported Ohio's agricultural business community for more than 30 years, and we should continue to support and invest in programs like this to keep farming profitable. Other economic policies that the Treasurer can champion can also support long-term investments in our rural residents and farmers, including keeping healthcare accessible and affordable. Maintaining investment in agricultural research programs will continue to help keep Ohio farmers competitive. As Treasurer of Ohio, I will prioritize investing in our farmers and rural communities to ensure they are lifted up and not forgotten.

Auditor of State Candidates



Frank LaRose (R)

What specific actions will your office take to ensure Ohio remains a national leader in food production and farming?

As Secretary of State, I have visited farmers across Ohio and met with local farm bureaus to hear firsthand about the challenges facing farmers and agricultural businesses. Agriculture remains one of Ohio's most important industries, with one in seven Ohioans connected to the sector. I want to ensure future generations have the resources and opportunities needed to keep Ohio a national and global leader in food production and farming. As Auditor, I will focus on the responsibilities of the office that can directly support Ohio's agricultural community. Taxpayers deserve a watchdog who takes the job seriously. I will bring the same commitment to transparency, efficiency, and accountability that I have demonstrated as Secretary of State. That means conducting thorough audits of counties, townships, fair boards, extension offices, soil and water conservation districts, and other public entities that provide services to farmers and rural communities. I will follow the facts, ask tough questions, and hold government accountable when waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement is uncovered. Farmers work hard for every dollar they earn, and they deserve confidence that their tax dollars are being spent wisely and effectively. The Auditor's Office may not always receive the most attention, but it plays a critical role in ensuring public funds are managed responsibly. Strong financial oversight helps protect the services, infrastructure, and programs that Ohio's agricultural communities depend on.

What personal or professional experiences have shaped your understanding of Ohio agriculture and rural communities?

My understanding of Ohio agriculture begins with my own experience growing up and working on a family farm in Northeast Ohio. That experience taught me the value of hard work and the reality that food does not simply appear

on grocery store shelves—it is produced by farmers who face challenges and risks every day. To this day, I still visit that family farm several times each year, and I look forward to helping with the sweet corn harvest and hay baling. During my seven years as Secretary of State, I have traveled extensively throughout Ohio and spoken with farmers in every corner of the state. Through those conversations, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the issues facing rural communities, from workforce challenges and rising costs to succession planning and business management. One area where my office has helped is through Ohio's business filing system. Ohio offers some of the lowest LLC filing fees and fastest processing times in the nation. I have encouraged farmers and small business owners to consider forming an LLC or other business entity to help protect their families and personal assets. For many farm families, those protections can provide peace of mind and greater financial security for future generations.

Why are farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Ohio important to the future of our state?

Throughout my time as Secretary of State, I have traveled to all 88 Ohio counties to ensure every community has a voice in state government. In communities large and small, I have met with Ohioans who care deeply about the future of our state, including many farmers and agricultural leaders. Agriculture is more than an industry in Ohio—it is part of our identity and a way of life. Every year, farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities generate billions of dollars in economic activity and help drive growth across the state. From the food we eat to the communities they support, Ohio farmers are essential to our future because they provide the resources, innovation, and stewardship that help our state thrive. I have been honored to participate in the Ohio Farm Bureau podcast and meet regularly with local farm bureaus to ensure rural Ohio is heard in Columbus. As Ohio's next State Auditor, I will continue advocating for transparency, accountability, and responsible government that respects the contributions of farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities throughout our state.

Auditor of State Candidates



Annette Blackwell (D)

What specific actions will your office take to ensure Ohio remains a national leader in food production and farming?

Being the Mayor of an urban community, I have found ways to support farming, and as Auditor, I would have even greater opportunities to do so. As Mayor of Maple Heights, when a local farmer's market closed in our Central Business District, I personally brokered a solution by connecting a local real estate investor with Rid-All Green Partnership (ridall.org), a nationally recognized urban agriculture organization operating a 26-acre farm in Cleveland's Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone. Today, that location is one of the most successful businesses in our city, offering fresh produce, juices, hanging baskets, and specialty food products, drawing customers from across the county. This public-private partnership preserved agricultural retail, expanded market access for an innovative Ohio farming operation, provided healthy products and strengthened our local economy. Most recently, last month, the City of Maple Heights in partnership with Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners www.tinkerscreek.org installed a pollinator garden in the city's community garden. This garden has been maintained by local volunteers for fresh fruits, vegetables and plants and is a food source for many of our seniors. Additionally, the city's Department of Human Services coordinates a monthly mobile market for our residents at a local church. This city has more than a 25% poverty rate therefore food and housing insecurity is a real challenge as well as achieving better health outcomes which are closely related to access to healthy and fresh food.

As Ohio Auditor, I will use the office's oversight and accountability functions to:

- Audit state agricultural programs rigorously to ensure every dollar meant to support Ohio farmers reaches them and produces results

- Hold state agencies accountable for delivering on commitments to Ohio's agricultural sector
- Identify and bureaucratic waste that slows down support for farmers and rural communities
- Champion transparency in how state funds are invested in farmland preservation, agricultural innovation, and rural infrastructure

The Auditor's office exists to ensure that the systems and investments supporting our farmers are transparent and effective. I will be a tireless advocate for Ohio's agricultural community.

What personal or professional experiences have shaped your understanding of Ohio agriculture and rural communities?

My family migrated to Ohio from the rural south, Alabama, when I was very young where many of them had worked as sharecroppers on a farm; everything that we ate and earned came from farming. Most recently, I served as the Ohio Municipal League's Mayor Association of Ohio's President from 2023-2025 representing Mayors from more than 2,000 cities, townships, and villages most of them rural communities. In this role I became more knowledgeable about family business, legacy, sustainability and tradition in Ohio's agriculture and rural communities.

Why are farmers, agribusinesses, and rural Ohio important to the future of our state?

These business owners feed our communities, provide food for local businesses; hospitals, grocers, restaurants and schools. The availability of healthy food affects lifestyles, health outcomes, and quality of life. This business is impactful and important as well as successful economic development as it provides jobs and opportunities. These farmers and the agribusiness keep rural Ohio competitive.