

## Wood County Candidates for May 10, 2016 Primary

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### WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District Candidates

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Name Bob Ashley

Party Republican

#### Biography

Bob Ashley is truly honored to serve as your State Senator. As an insurance agent in Spencer, a graduate of Marshall University, and a father of two successful sons, Bob has dedicated his professional career to making our area a great place to live. As a businessman and community leader, Bob brings responsible, effective and fiscally conservative solutions to Charleston.

- 1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**  
Our state and its communities must be proactive in combating drug abuse, which has ruined many families and affected thousands of children. I support treatment centers, community mental health facilities, drug courts, actively prosecuting suppliers, mandating anti-drug programs in schools, support for families affected by the epidemic, and all other positive intervention strategies.
- 2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**  
Ultimately, teachers will only be attracted and retained if they are paid a competitive wage and if the community offers amenities that make young people want to live there. We also need to consider alternative certification with strong criteria to assure quality instruction
- 3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**  
The current budget shortfall is the result of declining revenue from coal, oil and gas extraction. Our regulatory climate has discouraged business growth. Working with many state agencies, this legislature, with my vote, has identified and eliminated duplicative and unnecessary regulations. We need to consider tax enhancements, including "sin taxes" and wasteful spending.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Name Donna J. Boley

Party Republican

#### Biography

WVU-P; State Senator since 1985 (31 years); President Pro Tem of the State Senate; Senate Finance Committee;; Senate Education Vice-Chair; Rule Making Review; Chairman, Confirmation Committee; Military Vice Chairman; WV Legislature Website for additional committees.

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Drug Courts are an important element. Many in Parkersburg and Wood County and other 3rd District counties have great programs which I do support and will continue to support. Law enforcement to be congratulated on their efforts. Education is the key to deter citizens from starting drug use.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

I have introduced a Resolution to study the 600 shortages this summer. Perhaps added incentives to entice teachers into hard to fill positions is needed. Looking forward to the results of the Study.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Need to look at all of our expenses and see if we can reduce some of the agencies; Need to look at what we have to have vs what we want to have in our government. Tough decisions are on the horizon; but we have to have all the facts instead of just cutting 6-7% across the board.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Name John P. Riggs

Party Republican

### **Biography**

I'm a resident of Pleasants County, a graduate of University of Maryland and WVU. I am businessman in real estate and oil & gas, a Christian, an Eagle Scout, a Mason and community supporter. I have over 20 years of military service with multiple overseas deployments and still serving in the WV Army National - E8/Master Sergeant. View my website -[johnriggsforsenate.com](http://johnriggsforsenate.com)

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

I would reinstate the counter drug program that worked successfully for years, which allowed the WV National Guard to assist state and local law enforcement agencies, with minimal costs to taxpayers. We need education starting at the elementary level, rehabilitation programs implemented along with community watch groups. A strategy needs developed to stop the flow of drugs into West Virginia.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

I would like to hire teachers from within West Virginia, first looking at graduates from our state colleges and universities, with the possibility of some type of student loan forgiveness, if they live and teach within West Virginia for a certain period of time. The PEIA program needs to be funded and salaries increased to be competitive with surrounding states.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

I'm not a proponent for raising taxes. There is still room for improvement in state expenditures, i.e. the \$20,000,000/year greyhound subsidy and other obscure programs. The state can cut unnecessary positions by attrition and early retirement incentives. Due to the volatility of natural resources, they shouldn't be a large factor in establishing the budget.

I believe in smaller government.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Name Bradley Vanzile

Party Democrat

### **Biography**

I was born in Parkersburg and raised in St. Marys. I graduated from St. Marys High School in 1995. I was a member of the WV Army Reserves and deployed twice. I served in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. Currently I am a proud Union Pipefitter with Local 565 out of Parkersburg.

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

I feel that we need more drug treatment facilities throughout the state as well as reinvest in rehabilitation to try to save the lives of addicts.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Teachers pay as well as health care benefits need to be more competitive to keep highly qualified teachers in WV. The teachers in the state also need to be given back some of the freedom to be able to actually educate.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

I would like to see an increase to the tobacco tax throughout the state. Along with that also modernize personal income tax rates and brackets.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District (Unexpired Term)

Name Mike Azinger

Party Republican

### **Biography**

I am a 1983 graduate of Parkersburg High School and am married to my high school sweetheart, Jackie. We have three wonderful children.

I have served for two years in the House of Delegates, have many years of experience in business, sales, and political consulting, and hosted my own daily radio show dealing with politics, culture, and current events.

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Stiffer penalties for drug dealers to make the consequences for selling drugs wholly undesirable is something that should always be contemplated when addressing the drug epidemic; the last session of the legislature definitely helped in this area. At its core, however, drug abuse is a spiritual issue and faith-based treatment programs should be a part of a comprehensive solution.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Obviously we have a problem with teacher pay relative to our surrounding states. Mike Myer had a great article on the bloated Department of Education. A friend of mine introduced a bill that would cut the Department of Education and use the savings to give

teachers a pay rise. I liked the idea so much I co-sponsored the bill.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

I have committed to not voting for any tax increases, period. There is plenty of fat to be cut in the budget. We have to have an economic vision for West Virginia that includes cutting our draconian taxes and regulations so we can create jobs and keep our kids and grandkids right here in the best state in America.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District (Unexpired Term)

Name Gregory K. Smith

Party Democrat

**Biography**

Graduate, WVU---Harvard Business School Program for Management Development--Hon. Degree, WVU-P---House of Delegates(Pleasants/Ritchie) 1980-1986----Retired CEO Mountain State Blue Cross Blue Shield--Former Chairman, MOV Chamber of Commerce--Numerous non-profit Boards throughout WV

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Should focus on early education, detection and intervention as a priority in our schools. Also, surveys suggest companies willing to expand or relocate list skilled labor availability as the number one issue. Emphasis on new and innovative training through community colleges can provide skills that will offer more jobs, purpose and hope to our young people.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

PEIA is managed by increasing premiums, deductibles and copays which reduces total compensation. Must focus on the cost of health care due to the expansion of the system, pharmaceutical costs and capital expenditures to be paid for by a declining population. Also, alternative accreditation standards could be a solution for specific subject needs in shortage areas.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

The consolidation of government agencies, resources and manpower can eliminate duplication and also result in more accountability. For example, all related health care agencies(including drug enforcement) should have a comprehensive consistent strategy. Medicaid would be the only exception. We should also consider a constitutional amendment with a revenue source to address the worsening infrastructure problems, including broadband.

Office WV State Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> District (Unexpired Term)

Name Sam Winans

Party Republican

**Biography**

Vice President - Winans Sanitary Supply Co., Inc for 30 years.

Married to Sandra Lee Kerns Winans, daughters – Jodi Mellor-Tucker and Mary Abigail Winans

Educated in Wood County Schools and WVU

Vice Chair WVU-P Board of Governors, West Virginia Commission on the Arts.

Past Chairs – Area Roundtable, Parkersburg/Wood County CVB, Parkersburg Art Center. Humane Society of Parkersburg,  
Camden Clark Foundation,

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Our emphasis must be on education and treatment. We, as a Government fail at legislating moral behavior. I do know the solution has to be a combination of medical professionals, counselors, law enforcement, friends and family. We need to attack the sources of the addiction and shut off the supply of drugs. We cannot afford this destruction of our people.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

This will take a comprehensive package to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia. I would propose an increase in teacher's salaries stretched over five years paid for by a soda pop surcharge. We need to incentivize teaching graduates to stay here by upgrading professional learning packages. Our emphasis must be on real world results and not standardized tests.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Every option is on the table! We need to streamline purchasing methods, eliminate duplicitous processes and bureaucracies, and re-evaluate the need for WV Health Care Authority and other such programs. I will fight to change our DHHR and programs that penalize the working poor and reward those who don't work. We will not pass laws we cannot fund.

## **WV House of Delegates Candidates**

Office WV House of Delegates District 8

Name Bill Anderson

Party Republican

### **Biography**

Graduate: Williamstown High School, Marshall University, BA, West Virginia University, MA.

Veteran: United States Air Force. Retired teacher. Elder: Williamstown Presbyterian Church, Officer:

American Legion Post 159. Member: West Virginia Education Association, Retired,

Wood County Farm Bureau, West Virginia Cattleman's Association.

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

The growing epidemic of drug abuse in West Virginia requires a three pronged approach. First, school programs need to educate children about the dangers and consequences of drug abuse. Secondly, treatment and rehabilitation programs should focus upon helping those dealing with addictions becoming productive citizens. Thirdly, those selling drugs should be dealt with severely with lengthy prison sentences

- 2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Salary improvements for teachers will be needed in order to attract and retain fully qualified teachers in the classrooms of our state. Science, math, foreign language, and special education are areas of shortages across the state. As West Virginia competes with other states for fully qualified teachers higher salaries will be a major part of the equation.

- 3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

West Virginia's economy is in transition and requires changes in tax structure in the future. To solve the immediate budget shortfall we need to redirect unspent funds and special revenue funds to areas in deficit. Targeted spending reductions need to be pursued. Use of some Revenue Shortfall Reserve funds may be required. In the longer term tax reforms are needed.

Office WV House of Delegates District 8

Name D. Shannon Kimes

Party Republican

### **Biography**

Born 1977, raised Hartford, Mason County, WV. Graduated CWRU Cleveland Mechanical Engineering. Worked for Chrysler's and GM's vehicle design validation groups for engine cooling and HVAC, 1999-2003. Owns and operates family business, started 1986, Kimes Steel & Rail a manufacturer of railroad construction materials. Vienna resident with wife Erica, attends Vienna Baptist, loves traveling, building house and Hartford Treasurer. [www.dsk4wva.com](http://www.dsk4wva.com)

- 1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Reduce funding Medicaid, Medicare and VA opioid prescription drugs that exploded in use. Time limits on opioid prescriptions. Monitor state funded drug programs for effectiveness. Eliminate programs not getting results. Spending too much on drug war considering how badly we are losing. Create environment where opportunities exist for everyone, trade Xbox and Meth for work, sorry someone's "gotta" do it.

- 2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Spending \$11,000+ per student, getting disgracefully low proficiency. Dismember state and county BOE's, send to county commission who appoints BOE to terms of 4-8 years. Will help alleviate BANETDS, (Babies afraid of next election tough decision syndrome). Fire terrible teachers, eliminate bloated administration, pay good teachers weight in gold, give ability to whack heads where needed instead of Ritalin, etc.

- 3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Unlike Delegate Anderson, wouldn't vote for budgets that doubled expenditures last 20 years. Cut 5% across board for 5 years, to 2008 expenditure levels, eliminate tons of bureaucratic junk. Would solve current reckless Charleston created fiscal mess. Should've never spent all revenues when coal severance was high, should've paid down debt which nearly tripled in Anderson's tenure, not exactly conservative.

Office WV House of Delegates District 9

Name Ray Hollen  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

Raised on a small farm I learned the values of hard work, honesty, and sacrifice.

I'm a Marshall University Graduate, a retired USCG Officer, and a retired WV State Trooper. Married with two daughters and three granddaughters.

I'll use my desire to serve the public, my years of experience, and my leadership skills for the good of the people.

[WWW.RayHollen.com](http://WWW.RayHollen.com)

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

I will use my many years of law enforcement experience to work with all agencies in finding ways that work in combating the flow of illegal drugs into and manufactured in our state. I will work with the drug courts and addiction rehab centers to make sure help is available for those that are addicted.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Qualified teachers are very important to our education system. It is imperative that we find ways to keep the great teachers we already have and also bring new teachers into WV. I will work with, and seek advise from those in education to find the best ways to accomplish this.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Encourage more businesses to come to WV to increase our workforce, cut govt dependency, and add more state revenue. We need to take a hard look at which subsidies are good for the people of WV and end those that are not good. We cannot keep leaning on the taxpayers to pay for wasteful spending.

Office WV House of Delegates District 9  
Name Jim Marion  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

Bio-age 62, married, wife Jan, 2 kids-John & Jamie, 2 grandkids-Lauren & Zach. I have lived in Mineral Wells for 33 years. I graduated from PSHS and have 1 year at WVU. I worked at UPS for 27 years as a delivery driver, retiring in 2005. I am a retired member of the Teamsters Union 175

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Crack down on the dealers and the distributors more and have harsher sentences for them. Better educate children in school about drugs. Be more lenient with the users and offer more help to rehabilitate them.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

First, start raising their pay by one thousand dollars a year for at least 6 years. Second, offer more in state scholarships to students who want to stay here to teach.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Cut from the top down, decrease Governors salary, decrease legislators salary by 5 thousand dollars, cut other administrative pay by at least 5 percent. Repeal " The right to work for less law" which will keep good high paying union jobs that pay more taxes and spend more money in this state. Bring back prevailing wage for the same reasons.

Office WV House of Delegates District 9

Name Angela Summers

Party Republican

**Biography**

Summers grew up in Wood County and holds a Bachelor's Degree from GSC. Currently, she manages her son's chiropractic office and lives with her husband in southern Wood County. Summers' two sons, their wives, and five grandchildren all reside in Wood County. For the past three years, Summers has been an outspoken critic of the national Common Core educational standards.

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

In 2011, the Governor created six regional drug task forces. Many hours and thousands of dollars have been devoted to this. We need to know what the task forces have learned, what they have done, what has worked, and not worked, then move forward strengthening our laws against drug dealers, developing medical intervention and preventive educational programs.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Get the federal government out of WV classrooms; stop evaluating teachers using an unreliable, invalid student assessment, and stop forcing teachers to be the government's data collectors. We need to return to an age appropriate classical education, and allow teachers to use methods and strategies they know will work, rather than dictating unproven pedagogy.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Continue the audits of various departments to identify waste and unnecessary spending beginning with the WV DOE. For example, the State BOE spent \$43,000 to find the current superintendent, hiring him for \$230,000 – an increase of \$60,000 over the prior superintendent. He then created two new positions at \$215,000. We must end this irresponsible stewardship of the people's dollars.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name Bill Bell

Party Republican

**Biography**

I have lived in the Mid-Ohio Valley for most of my life, and am 28 years old. I currently serve as the

Student Body President for WVU Parkersburg, and am working on my Bachelor's in Elementary Education. I serve in many leadership positions on campus, some being on the state level. My campaign website is [www.facebook.com/bellforwvhouse](http://www.facebook.com/bellforwvhouse). Thank you!

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Given that there is sufficient funding, I would support any and all efforts to help or establish new drug abuse assistance programs and strengthen laws against those who sell or distribute. I have lost friends to drug abuse, and it is a problem that we should not take lightly in this area.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

We need to make teaching salaries more competitive; when our salaries are towards the bottom of national rankings, it is no surprise that those who want to teach decide to elsewhere. If the funding were available, I would support any incentive that helps teacher recruitment and retention to WV. We must invest in our future!

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

I would not support any further cuts to higher education or public schools. I would support an audit on state spending, and find where we are bleeding money. Irresponsible and wasteful spending needs to be addressed and corrected before we even consider cutting education and taking away from our students' future

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name Vernon Criss

Party Republican

**Biography**

PHS Class 1972. WV Wesleyan 1976. Executive with Family Business. Vice-President of Camden Clark Foundation. Past President of Boy Scout Council. Member the House-of-Delegates 1987-1990.

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Use the Regional Public Health Departments to fight the epidemic and set up regional re-hab centers

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Offer moving or housing bonuses along with a raise in wages to compete for qualified teachers

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Increase tobacco taxes and increase road fund fees & fuel taxes. Re-invent the way State Government provides services.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name Andy Daniel

Party Democrat

## Biography

I am a lifelong resident of Parkersburg WV, raised by WV teachers, devoted father of 3 wonderful sons, active member of Nemesis Shrine, carpenter, local business owner and job creator. I have spent my entire adult life working, understand the importance of negotiating and compromising to achieve the best outcome for everyone. Please let me work for you. Visit [www.whoisandy.org](http://www.whoisandy.org)

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

I would like to see more treatment centers. Actual long stay, in state treatment centers. We need a way to actually get people off drugs and keep them off drugs. I also think that drug courts are a great tool to transition drug abusers back to a successful participant in the community and could be expanded to help more people.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

We need to fund / fix PEIA giving teachers the security of an insurance plan long term. We also need to find a way to get our teachers' salaries higher to be competitive with surrounding states. Fixing our roads and drug problem would also go a long way toward attracting qualified teachers to come to WV for long term.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

I think the long term answer is to create long term well-paying jobs in WV for WV residents. If we could convince the out of state employers to hire WV employees it would mean more money being spent in WV. I do not however support tax breaks for big corporations. I stand with the working people of WV

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name Frank Deem

Party Republican

## Biography

Born in Harrisville, WV

Attended Mountain State Business College,  
WVU,

Graduated from Marietta College

Married to Rebecca Lewellyn

Eight children

Businessman, Oil and Gas Producer

Built North Bend Golf Course

Owned Frank Deem Chevrolet

A member of Rotary, The WVU-P Foundation Board, Farm Bureau, WV House of Delegates, BPOE, Chamber of Commerce, Independent Oil and Gas Association, Attends First Presbyterian

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Education and good self-esteem are deterrents to drug abuse. It is important that our citizens are trained to participate in the workforce and that there is work for them to do. The legislature must do all it can to create the best environment for business and to see that training opportunities are available to all who require them.

- 2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

Find the means to raise teacher salaries and promote our state as having exemplary education standards.

- 3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

Increase the tax on cigarettes to \$1.00 per pack. Cut programs that are deemed unnecessary by the majority of legislators.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name Matthew Dodrill

Party Republican

### **Biography**

Lifelong Parkersburg resident, Matthew balances days between small businesses, community involvements, and his political career. Treasurer of Parkersburg Homecoming and founder of Parkersburg's Zombie Walk he understands community events capitalize on our state's offerings. With his dedication to technological growth, education reform, and making WV business-friendly, Matthew is poised to help guide West Virginia into a bright, new future. [www.MatthewDodrill.com](http://www.MatthewDodrill.com)

- 1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

WV has the highest overdose rate in the US, yet we do not have a single long-term in-patient rehabilitation facility. We prosecute low level drug offenders, lock them up with hardened criminals, creating a chain of repeating and escalating offenses. We have to break the cycle, give people hope and a way out. We do that by creating opportunities.

- 2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

There is no quick or perfect fix, but there are programs in use in other states that could be explored. Invested interest student loan forgiveness, over a 5-year period a portion of student loans could be forgiven. Housing incentives, tax credits for teachers buying homes in WV. Other tax breaks for nationally certified teachers.

- 3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

We should be looking to the future to create a thriving job market in our state. Technology businesses are booming in the Midwest. Opening our doors, purposely putting financial support behind growing high speed Internet access, and providing education and training; West Virginia could get ahead of the curve and step boldly into the next wave of the technological revolution.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name John R. Kelly

Party Republican

### **Biography**

Educated Wood County Schools, Graduated Mountain State College, AAS; PCC (WVU-P), AAS; Glenville State, RBS. US Air Force veteran. Retired DuPont. Served on Council, 85-96, 2013-2014. Council President, 3yrs; held VP, Chairmanship of Public Works, Finance, and Personnel Committees.

Five years on Area Roundtable. Elected to the WV House of Delegates 2015. Various Civic and Fraternal organizations.

- 1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**  
Treatment, training, and enforcement. WV has been derelict in establishing drug treatment facilities. We must create a system of centers throughout WV that provides treatment for drug and alcohol abuse. These facilities must have programs that go into our schools and train our youth against drug and alcohol usage. Repeat drug dealers must receive the stiffest penalties in the nation.
- 2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**  
WV teachers rank 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation with pay and benefits. It is difficult to recruit and retain qualified people with these statistics. During the 2016 Legislative session, I introduced legislation that would increase teacher pay over a four year period. I will re-introduce that bill until House and Senate leadership understand it's importance. WV must be competitive.
- 3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**  
We must first evaluate ways to increase income without increasing taxes. Two bills were introduced in the 2016 session that would have done just that. Although controversial to some, HB4170 (State Wide Sunday Hunting) was estimated to bring more that \$125M into the state. HB4280 (Repeal of Motorcycle Helmet Law) would have brought another \$100M . Leadership wouldn't run either bill.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10  
Name J. Morgan Leach  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

Morgan is an aspiring young attorney who is finishing up his degree at WVU College of Law. His goals are to develop sustainable energy and agricultural systems to help diversify our economy and reduce our budget deficit. Morgan will provide new jobs for working families and lead our state into a new era of prosperity. Visit him at [jmorganleach.com](http://jmorganleach.com).

- 1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**  
Let's make mental healthcare a priority. Addressing the root problem will help us to provide better treatment. I believe we need to reschedule drugs to reflect their true medicinal benefits. Preventing overprescription will reduce overdose rates. Substance abuse and prevention programs will also help to end opioid addiction.
- 2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**  
Adequate funding for education is paramount for hiring quality teachers. It's hard to attract and keep educators when our average salary and benefits are substantially less than surrounding states. Placing a priority on funding PEIA and increasing teachers' pay will help to provide quality education for our children by becoming more competitive and retaining highly educated professionals.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

We need to be innovative in our approach for attracting new businesses and new sources of state tax revenues. Diversifying our economy will help us to avoid the tax shortfalls that we have experienced this year. Developing a variety of smaller businesses will help build a more sustainable tax base and provide more consistent jobs for our people.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name William O. Merriman, Jr.

Party Democrat

**Biography**

I attended all Wood County Secondary Schools, graduated from Parkersburg High School in 1987. Attended Ohio Valley College obtained an associates degree and continued my education at Glenville State College where I obtained a bachelor's degree in business management with a concentration in accounting. Attended Capital Law School in Columbus, OH and earned a Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1996.

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**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

I would introduce a bill that would redefine a controlled substance so as to include substances that are not currently in the definition but are being used in conjunction with current controlled substances. I would introduce a bill that would assist in rehabilitation to find a way out of the epidemic and punish the distributors appropriately.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

To attract qualified teachers to West Virginia I would attempt to increase salaries and appropriately fund PEIA. I would repeal laws that are obstructing to the educators to educate our children and support laws that allow our teachers to teach. And pass laws based on Merit.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

I would look at passing laws that would increase economic development, which may include decreasing business taxes and regulate the taxation on everybody. I would look at laws that value the development of natural resources, I would also look at laws to eliminate the current drug epidemic.

Office WV House of Delegates District 10

Name Stephen Ruble

Party Democrat

**Biography**

Born in Parkersburg, I attended public elementary, junior high and high school, graduating in 1988. I attended WVU-Parkersburg for two years and then completed my apprenticeship with the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers. Currently, I'm Field Representative for the Bricklayers covering Parkersburg, Huntington & Charleston. Announced my candidacy for West Virginia House of Delegates, 10th District. Website <http://rubleforwvhouseofdelegates.Webstarts.com>

**1. What would you do as a legislator to address our state's epidemic of drug abuse?**

Exploring new ways to combat our state's drug epidemic is crucial. Long term drug treatment facilities are needed to better address addiction issues. Providing mental and physical health treatment along with alternative medications to treat opioid drug addictions would help address our state's growing drug abuse problems. We should provide early education and intervention about the effects of drug abuse.

**2. Considering that many counties in West Virginia cannot fill teaching positions with qualified teachers, what would you do to attract qualified teachers to West Virginia?**

West Virginia teachers' pay is among the lowest in the country, ranking 46<sup>th</sup>, more than \$11,500 below the national average. Finding the income sources to increase teachers' pay to bring it in line with surrounding states and the national average, then addressing the PEIA funding shortfalls would generate more interest and help us attract, recruit and retain additional educators.

**3. What measures would you favor that increase state revenue and/or cut specific programs to resolve the state's continuing budget shortfalls?**

We need to focus on the people and small businesses already here in West Virginia. Eliminating the large tax cuts provided to big corporations would generate some of the revenue needed. Increasing our public employees pay to livable wages and adopting a livable minimum wage would increase our residents' income levels and tax base. Pay Equality for All West Virginians.

## **Wood County Commissioner Candidates**

Office Wood County Commissioner

Name James E. Colombo

Party Democrat

### **Biography**

**FAMILY:** Married 54 years to Sharon Mellinger Colombo, Four Children, Seven Grandchildren

**EDUCATION:** Parkersburg Catholic HS, AA Degree-WVU-P, Honorary BA Degree-WVU, BA Degree-Marietta College

**EMPLOYMENT:** Colombo's Restaurant-Family business since 1954, WV Parole Board, 6 years, by Governor Manchin 2009, City of Parkersburg; January 1998-December 2005, nominated unexpired term, began June 19, 2015

**1. Do you think the county is adequately prepared to deal with an industrial accident or natural disaster? Why or why not?**

Always be prepared. Wood County has an Emergency Management Coordinator to centralize problems. Wood and Washington Counties must work together with First Responders doing training in mock disasters in chemical plants, schools, hospitals, and railcars. Industry and First Responders work closely together to achieve the safest strategies that are the best for the community.

**2. What are your budget priorities when it comes to competing needs among county offices and departments?**

As a business man and Mayor, I understand budgets. I have made nine citywide budgets. I will review department budgets; do a five year budget review and average matching requests. Departments can explain needs and special requests. I will ensure a proper bidding policy is in

place. We are a service business for the citizens of Wood County.

Office Wood County Commissioner  
Name Ray McIntire  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

I serve Wood County as a field deputy in the Assessors Office. I was hired by Assessor Steve Grimm in 1998 and work for the current Assessor, Rich Shaffer. Before coming to the Assessor's Office, I worked in retail management, bookkeeping, and as an auctioneer. Lifetime resident of Wood County. Married. Sixty-one years old. [www.facebook.com/ray4commissioner](http://www.facebook.com/ray4commissioner)

**1. Do you think the county is adequately prepared to deal with an industrial accident or natural disaster? Why or why not?**

We are adequately prepared for industrial accidents. Federal agencies; OSHA, DEP, EPA; , state regulations, and fire departments are adequate to prevent accidents and protect our citizens.

More needs done in preparation for natural disasters. Seniors, nursing homes, and hospitals should be a priority. Community awareness, and personal responsibility during any emergency are a must.

**2. What are your budget priorities when it comes to competing needs among county offices and departments?**

Vote for a responsible and detailed look at the budget process. I'll urge all elected officials and supervisors to look for and cut any non-essential spending in their offices and departments. A close review of all county contracts and purchases; for quality and cost; is fundamental to building a county budget. Efficient government is good government.

Office Wood County Commissioner  
Name Rick Modesitt  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

Life long resident of Parkersburg; Attended PHS, WVU-P; Served as Police Officer 1975 - 1997; Chief of Police 1994-1997; Twice elected WV House of Delegates; Twice served as Acting Mayor of Parkersburg; Served as County Commissioner 2000-2010; Former Chairman of Athletic Commission. Licensed Realtor; President Rick Modesitt & Associates.

[facebook.com/rickmodesittforcountycommission](http://facebook.com/rickmodesittforcountycommission)  
or [rickmodesitt.com](http://rickmodesitt.com)

**1. Do you think the county is adequately prepared to deal with an industrial accident or natural disaster? Why or why not?**

Overall, yes. We have outstanding emergency services providers in Wood County, however, needs are always changing. We must work closely with local plants, emergency service providers, State and Homeland Security Offices. Regular meetings, training exercises, and keeping equipment up to date is important. Funding for volunteer fire departments must be improved. Cell service coverage improvement is needed in rural areas.

**2. What are your budget priorities when it comes to competing needs among county offices and**

**departments?**

With the decline in coal industry , and the shortfalls in state government revenues, I believe my previous experience as Commissioner will be useful. We must properly manage our budget to prevent our own financial crisis, and we must work with other elected officials and set priorities for funding needs and implement fair and equitable budgets for the public and employees.

Office Wood County Commissioner

Name Eddie Staats

Party Republican

**Biography**

A longtime resident of Parkersburg, West Virginia. Educated at Parkersburg High School and West Virginia University. Married to Niki Angelos Staats with three daughters. Employed at the West Virginia State Treasures office for over 15 years, educating the importance of financial literacy and Unclaimed Property. Realtor and owner of RealLiving 1st Service Real Estate in Parkersburg, WV and Belpre, Ohio.

**1. Do you think the county is adequately prepared to deal with an industrial accident or natural disaster? Why or why not?**

Wood County is truly blessed by the presence of corporations and industrial plants in the valley and over the years safety has a top priority. In place are great disaster plans involving the collaboration of the emergency agencies in the county, city, privately and most importantly the members of the volunteer fire departments. Ongoing training and education is necessity.

**2. What are your budget priorities when it comes to competing needs among county offices and departments?**

The budget of the county should be one that is transparent and calculated. All county entities are equally important. The county needs to focus on building a strong financial foundation within all departments. Each department needs to be accountable for their spending. Majority of expenses are rising each year outside the counties control, departments need to synergize and be efficient.

Office Wood County Commissioner

Name Harold Yglesias

Party Republican

Candidate did not reply

**Wood County Assessor Candidates**

Office Wood County Assessor

Name Andy Hartleben

Party Republican

**Biography**

I'm a graduate of Parkersburg Catholic High School. I have worked in the Wood County Assessor's Office since 2002. My wife and I have two boys and we attend South Parkersburg Baptist Church. I serve on the board of directors for the Parkersburg Rotary Club and WCSWA. I am also the secretary for the Landmarks Commission. Please visit [hartleben.org](http://hartleben.org).

**1. What changes do you think are needed to make the assessor's office operate more efficiently?**

I believe that Wood County taxpayers deserve excellence when it comes to government service. Many of the employees in the assessor's office have spent a significant amount of time providing excellent service. I will encourage educational opportunities for my employees to further advance their expertise. I also believe that embracing technology will assist my staff with maintaining fair market value.

**2. Without repeating information in your biography, what experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

I am the only candidate that has worked in both the Personal Property Division and Real Property Division within the assessor's office. I have spent my whole working career in the assessor's office. I have experience in both residential and commercial real estate. I will go above and beyond to achieve fair market value on all types of property.

Office Wood County Assessor

Name David C. Nohe

Party Republican

**Biography**

Detective Wood County Sheriff Department

Licensed Real Estate Broker/ Associate 27 years

1997-2010 Mayor City/ Vienna / 4 terms

2010-2012 Mayor City/ Vienna / WV State Senator

2012-2015 WV State Senator

(Resigned August, 2015 when my father became severely ill)

WV Senate Committees:

Chairman: Banking & Insurance

Vice Chairman: Judiciary

**1. What changes do you think are needed to make the assessor's office operate more efficiently?**

As in the past, I will work with all the employees day one to evaluate how we can operate more efficiently to better serve Wood County citizens. I will work tirelessly to find way to give a larger homestead exemption for the elderly who so many have to choose between buying food or much needed medicine and can't afford both.

**2. Without repeating information in your biography, what experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

I'm a fiscal conservative who has a proven record, like no other candidate, of advocating lower taxes and reduced government. We have more people now struggling financially and it robs the very future of our children. I have dedicated my life as a public servant to find ways to make government work without putting undue financial burden on the people

Office Wood County Assessor

Name Doug Tennant

Party Republican

**Biography**

I graduated from PCHS IN 1971, worked in a local accounting office while attending PCC in Business Administration, became Office Manager for a sub contractor at Willow Island Power Station, I later worked in the food and beverage industry. I volunteered for the BSA for over ten years, also coach

Little League Baseball and Jr. High Basketball.

**1. What changes do you think are needed to make the assessor's office operate more efficiently?**

My plan is to address the internal operations that will eliminate errors, to review and improve procedures that will maximize the quality of performance of all employees. I will ensure all appraisals are fair and equal and reflect true market values. I will make sure taxpayers are treated courteously and professionally.

**2. Without repeating information in your biography, what experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

I have been dedicated to my job as a Deputy Assessor for nearly fourteen years, I have completed several appraisal courses. I have good work ethics and have met all work deadlines in a timely manner. I have enjoyed serving the county and wish to continue to do so.

Office Wood County Assessor

Name Robert "Bob" Tranquill

Party Republican

**Biography**

I have lived in Wood County for 37 years and currently reside in Vienna, WV with my wife of 38 years, Randi. I have two sons. Matthew and his wife, Marcie, lives in Bartlesville OK, with their son Conner (12) and daughter Katelyn (3). Joseph and his wife Dede and their son Jackson (4) live in Parkersburg, WV.

**1. What changes do you think are needed to make the assessor's office operate more efficiently?**

I am a natural leader and believe that all departments within the county need to work together to make the offices open, friendly and helpful for the citizens. I will encourage improved communication and collaboration between the Assessor's office and all the other county offices while establishing an open door policy to the citizens of Wood County.

**2. Without repeating information in your biography, what experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

I have sixteen years of experience in collecting taxes for Wood County as Chief Tax Deputy. During my tenure as Chief, the office has been audited yearly with minor recommendations for improvements which have been immediately corrected to insure that your taxes are being used efficiently and legally. I have an excellent understanding of county government and the Assessor's Office.

**Wood County Clerk**

Office Wood County Clerk

Name Bob Buchanan

Party Republican

Because this candidate is unopposed in the primary, we asked for a biography and statement to the voters. We will ask specific questions for the general election in the fall.

**Biography**

For the past thirty years I have owned and operated an accounting/financial planning practice located here in West Virginia serving clients in West Virginia, Ohio and Florida, managing millions of dollars

for individuals and businesses. This valuable experience has prepared me to provide leadership to the office of the Wood County Clerk.

### **Statement to Voters**

Since the last election for this office, little has changed in the County Clerk's office relative to adequate financial reporting to each county department, thereby limiting the ability to financially forecast based on past experience. I believe it is imperative for the clerk's office to provide these financial reports to the County Commission and each department within the county to determine where they stand currently and as compared to previous periods of time. I will endeavor to keep each department current with income and expenses, with ability to look at budget trends within that specific department. I further believe that the services of the office may be expanded to assist in searching out prospective new business and industry for the

Office Wood County Clerk  
Name Mark Rhodes  
Party Democrat

Because this candidate is unopposed in the primary, we asked for a biography and statement to the voters. We will ask specific questions for the general election in the fall.

### **Biography**

I have been married to June since October 1983. We have two children, Douglas (Becky) and Holly (Chad), and one beautiful granddaughter, Laila. I have worked for Wood County since 1984 and the County Clerk's Office since 2005. I have knowledge of all aspects of the County Clerk's duties. I enjoy fishing and gardening in my spare time.

### **Statement to Voters**

Many people feel their vote does not make a difference. I would like to stress that every vote cast by a registered voter counts. I am proof; in 2014 I was elected by five votes out of 20,853 votes cast. The County Clerk's Office is responsible for elections and the keeper of the records, which include deeds, liens, birth, marriages and death. The Probate Office is responsible for recording wills, appraisements, claims and settlements. The Finance Office is responsible for the payroll and related benefits of 225 full and part time employees. Finance also pays all approved bills, ensures departments do not exceed budgeted amounts, balances to the Sheriff's Tax Office and prepares the annual Financial Statement.

## **Wood County Surveyor Candidates**

Office Wood County Surveyor  
Name Paul K. (Kim) Marshall  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

Biographical info: Professional Licensed Land Surveyor, licensing exam in 1976, BS in Civil Engineering- WV Institute of Technology, WV Society of Professional Surveyors- Board of Directors, 2010-11, Wood County Surveyor 1980-92, Member Wood County Farm Bureau, Past President of the Wood County Planning Commission, Member of the Little Kanawha Regional Chapter of the WV Association of Land Surveyors.

- 1. What changes do you think are needed to make the surveyor's office operate more efficiently?**

To operate more efficiently, the first change I would make is by being more available to the citizens via internet, and other modern means of communications. I am a strong proponent of professional interaction among my peers by regularly attending our chapter meetings and discussing current technologies. Opening up lines of communication is the key to solving problems.

**2. Without repeating information in your biography, what experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

With 40 years of experience and being involved in every facet of surveying from basic boundary surveying to highly technical construction layout and control for aerial mapping, I feel I am uniquely qualified to serve the citizens of Wood County and provide professional surveying guidance when called upon. Our property is a blessing to every one of us.

Office Wood County Surveyor  
Name Scott F. Stewart  
Party Republican  
Candidate did not reply

## **Wood County Circuit Clerk Candidate**

Office Wood County Circuit Clerk  
Name Carole Jones  
Party Republican

Because this candidate is unopposed in the primary, we asked for a biography and statement to the voters. We will ask specific questions for the general election in the fall.

### **Biography**

Circuit Clerk 1991-Present. Graduate of Marshall University with a degree in Business Administration. Completed West Virginia University Local Government Leadership Academy. Employed in Wood County Circuit Clerk's Office since 1968. Chief Deputy to former clerk, Juanita Coe. Appointed as Circuit Clerk in 1991 by then Chief Judge Arthur N. Gustke. Elected to office in 1992, 1998, 2004 and 2010.

### **Statement to Voters**

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as Circuit Clerk of Wood County for many years, and I would like to thank all of you who have supported me and voted for me in the past. I do appreciate the trust that you have placed in me. I hope that you have found that I have lived up to your expectations, and have served you in an honorable and professional manner. Even though I am unopposed at the present time, I would truly appreciate your vote of confidence on May 10.

## **Wood County Prosecutor Candidates**

Office Wood County Prosecutor  
Name Anne Armstrong  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

Anne Marie Armstrong, a native of Parkersburg, resided in Wood County for over 30 years. Anne's

professional experience includes: Teacher, Victim Advocate, Guardian *ad Litem*, Pro Bono Attorney for RDVIC, and Assistant Prosecutor. Anne holds a certification in child forensic interviewing, a Concealed Weapons License; and is a longstanding Team Member of the Adult Drug Court Treatment Program. <http://armstrongonjustice.wix.com>

**1. What changes do you think are needed to make the prosecutor's office operate more efficiently?**

To achieve maximum efficiency, an open and on-going dialogue with all persons/entities involved in the daily operations of the Prosecuting Attorney's office must be maintained to correct problems/deficiencies. Cooperation/collaboration are effective/efficient. If you uphold the laws of the State of West Virginia equally and fairly for all citizens, valuable time/resources are not expended needlessly.

**2. Without repeating information in your biography, what experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

As an Assistant Prosecutor for almost 9 years handling Juvenile Prosecution and Abuse/Neglect cases, Anne has worked relentlessly with Law Enforcement, Probation Officers, DHHR, School Administrators, Mental Health Professionals, CASA, and Defense Attorneys to keep children, families, and communities safe. Through ADCTP participation, Anne has specialized training, knowledge, and experience to combat the illegal drug epidemic ravaging our society.

Office Wood County Prosecutor

Name Patrick Lefebure

Party Republican

### **Biography**

Pat Lefebure is a veteran of the Wood County Prosecutor's Office and has successfully prosecuted felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases. He has worked extensively to combat the drug epidemic in our community. He and his wife have chosen to raise their family in Wood County. He obtained his law degree from Capital University and his undergraduate degree from Marshall University.

**1. What changes do you think are needed to make the prosecutor's office operate more efficiently?**

The office would operate more efficiently and benefit from utilizing more resources to effectively fight the increasing drug problem and related criminal activity in Wood County. This would begin with a greater collaboration between the Wood County Prosecutor's Office, law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, concerned citizens, and the surrounding communities to address crime and safety issues within Wood County.

**2. Without repeating information in your biography, what experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

Beginning in the Wood County Prosecutor's Office in 2003, I have successfully prosecuted everything from speeding tickets to murder cases. I work closely with the Parkersburg Narcotics Task Force to target the drug epidemic in Wood County. I understand that it is imperative to protect those that cannot protect themselves, including children and the elderly.

### **Wood County Sheriff Candidates**

Office Wood County Sheriff

Name David Foggin  
Party Republican  
Candidate did not reply

Office Wood County Sheriff  
Name Kenneth Merritt  
Party Republican  
Candidate did not reply

Office Wood County Sheriff  
Name Steve Stephens  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

28 years of law enforcement experience with Vienna PD. 8.5 years of experience at Wood County Sheriff's Office as deputy and current Chief of Confinement Operations. Former Parkersburg Narcotics Task Force officer and commander. Former FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force Agent. Current chairman of Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction - Law Enforcement Professional Standards Subcommittee. Current Vienna councilman.

**1. What personal qualities or experiences do you have that make you qualified to manage the sheriff's dual responsibilities of law enforcement and tax collection?**

Currently supervising the sheriff's office holding center and home confinement program. Oversight of daily operational duties as well as budget preparation and financial accountability. Career law enforcement officer experienced with investigations ranging from murder, drugs, domestic and foreign terrorism to domestic violence. Serving as city councilman, very experienced with working with others to maintain a multi-million dollar budget.

**2. What changes would you like to see in the operation of the sheriff's office.**

Improve upon drug investigations by supplementing task force with additional manpower and bringing back federal and state agencies into the fold. Starting a drug interdiction unit to intercept drugs before they make it to the dealers for street distribution. Improve upon training for deputies in such areas as advanced interview and interrogation. Improve upon accountability and responsibilities of every employee.

Office Wood County Sheriff  
Name H.G. "Bud" Williams  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

Former United States Marine. I have been married to Judy Williams since 1981 and have a daughter, 2 stepchildren, and several grandchildren. I have been a business owner for many years and work as a heavy equipment operator. I volunteered on numerous boards, including, 4-H, Veterans Park, and Wood County Fair to name a few.

**1. What personal qualities or experiences do you have that make you qualified to manage the sheriff's dual responsibilities of law enforcement and tax collection?**

I have been associated with the Sheriff's Office for over 14 years. I understand the workings and issues that arise on a daily business. My experience as a business owner has given me the

experience needed to address the budgetary requirements of the Sheriff's patrol, confinement, and tax office. My military service has taught me the value of others trust.

**2. What changes would you like to see in the operation of the sheriff's office.**

Three individuals running for Sheriff have been in charge of drug enforcement for the past 20+ years, the drug issue is worse now than ever. I have a real plan to combat drugs, not the same approach that's not working. The communities input will become a major part of the department with Deputies assigned to each district with monthly meetings.

Office Wood County Sheriff  
Name Rick Woodyard  
Party Republican

**Biography**

I graduated the WV State Police Academy in 1977, the FBI/National Academy and the DEA Drug Unit Commander's School. I have a Masters degree in Strategic Leadership and Management. I hold certifications as a Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Technician, Hazardous Materials Technician, Weapons of Mass Destruction instructor, Master Helicopter Pilot, Master Search and Rescue Diver and Master SWAT Operator/Instructor. Website: [rickwoodyard.com](http://rickwoodyard.com)

**1. What personal qualities or experiences do you have that make you qualified to manage the sheriff's dual responsibilities of law enforcement and tax collection?**

I was a member of the sheriff's office for over 37 years achieving the rank of Captain/Executive Officer. I have also served as Chief Deputy and, on occasions, was appointed acting sheriff. I have worked exclusively with the department's budgets, personnel, road patrol and investigations, and I have had hands on experience in the operations of the Tax Department.

**2. What changes would you like to see in the operation of the sheriff's office.**

I would like to see increased hours of operation of the tax department during tax time for the convenience of the tax payer and increased patrol in the rural areas. Also desperately needed is an intense focus on drug investigations to decrease the supply and demand of illicit drugs and a focus on more treatment facilities.

**Wood County Conservation District Supervisor Candidate**

**Elections for this office are FINAL on May 10, 2016 and will not appear on the November ballot.**

Office Wood County Conservation District Supervisor  
Name Dexter Graham  
Party Non-partisan

Because this candidate is unopposed in the primary, we asked for a biography and statement to the voters. We will ask specific questions for the general election in the fall.

Candidate did not reply

**Wood County Magistrate Candidates**

**Elections for this office are FINAL on May 10, 2016 and will not appear on the November ballot.**

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 1

Name Rachel N. Ferguson  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Former Magistrate of Wood County in 2010 appointed by Chief Circuit Judge J.D. Beane. Over 15 years' experience in the Magistrate Court System. Currently, Magistrate Assistant to Magistrate Robin Waters. Assistant to Magistrate Emily Bradley 2008-2010. Began career in 2001 in Roane County Court for Magistrate Denver Gandee, Jr.

- 1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

Adequate is not enough. Our world and legal system are constantly changing. It is incumbent to continuously strive to learn, train and educate yourself through classes, seminars, reading and listening. Experience is very beneficial but, you can never be too smart to cease learning.

- 2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

I would like to see Wood County receive the fifth magistrate position back it once had. Increased problems of domestic violence, drugs and other issues have placed greater demands on Magistrate Court case load. The citizens of Wood County deserve to have cases heard timely. Justice delayed can be justice denied.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 1  
Name Debbie Hendershot  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

A.A. degree in Criminal Justice with 12 hours left to earn my 4 year Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. It further assists me in the ownership and management of Hendershot Investigations. I am a licensed enforcer with the West Virginia State Police, but my strongest attributes are real world experience and thorough knowledge of the court system.

[www.debbie4magistrate.com](http://www.debbie4magistrate.com)

- 1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

No. The necessary minimum of a high school diploma for Magistrates is wholly insufficient to properly address issues regarding such areas as search warrants, landlord-tenant cases, felony preliminary hearings, juvenile preliminary hearings, mental health hearings, protective orders in domestic cases and civil disputes. Because of the diversity, a Magistrate should have a two year college degree in Criminal Justice.

- 2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

Longer hours from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to permit working people to pay fines, file papers, post bonds and conduct other matters. The Magistrate Court, often referred to as "The People's Court" should be readily available to serve the people after 5:00 p.m. The "on-call Magistrate" should be able to cover the additional hour.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 1  
Name Rachel A. Kirk

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I'm a Wood County native, and graduate of Parkersburg South High School. I reside in Parkersburg with my children, Zoe and Cooper. I am the daughter of Bruce Kirk and Stephanie "Stevie" Michael. I have been the Division 1 Magistrate Assistant for over 10 years. I've attended WVU-P for criminal justice courses, and numerous WV Supreme Court of Appeals conferences.

**1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

I wouldn't want my car mechanic or child's teacher to do their job with no education or experience. Why should a court of law require less? I believe court experience or some legal education should be a prerequisite for magistrates. The Supreme Court's annual trainings help keep magistrates' education current, but no training holds a candle to actual court experience.

**2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

Magistrate Court is the "People's Court" and we often see people at their worst. Each person must be met with impartiality and professionalism. Some dealings require compassion, while others demand a firmer perspective. It is crucial magistrates remain diligent, fair and consistent, judge each case as it is presented, and to not become complacent with everyday court processes.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 1

Name Ed Layton

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I believe my broad experience in recruiting thousands of workers and handling 200 employees, to counseling individuals , makes my position unique among candidates.

From walking the beat as a patrolman to building cases as detective, From crawling into burning houses to directing safety measures in businesses, I have become adept at decision making and reading situations.

**1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

Without experiencing the training , I have to grade it a "C" . Differences in conduct of a trial could be mostly due to the Judges style and personality .

I do believe that experience with the law and it's interpretation , should be a basic consideration before the training is complete.

**2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

I believe that community corrections is going to be an ever growing part of our system and that the Judiciary will need to become very familiar with it and use it well.

The drug problem is obviously the " Elephant in the room" . The solution doesn't lie in the Law alone, we will need creative alternatives in the mix.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 1

Name Jody Purkey  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Hello my name is Jody Purkey, I'm running for Wood County Magistrate in Division 1. I have grown up in Wood County, I am a 1982 graduate of Parkersburg Catholic High School, I also attended Shepherd College in Shepherdstown WV and WVU-P. 10 yrs. of service as a certified assistant supervisor at Wood County 911.

- 1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

The WV Supreme Court makes sure all new and existing magistrates are up to date and trained on all the new laws and codes for the state of WV. Magistrate Court system is a people court and magistrates are elected to serve the people and the community. WV Supreme Court does yearly training for all magistrates.

- 2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

Magistrate Court System is the people's court and they need to be treated with the utmost respect and have someone at the window who is dedicated to making their experience as easy as possible. We need an additional position in the court system that is dedicated to the Magistrate Court Window.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 1  
Name Paulina Yeargo  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

My career started at Wood County Magistrate Court in 1992 as a magistrate assistant, then deputy clerk, and later appointed to my current position of magistrate clerk in 2005. I have attended numerous classes through the WV Supreme Court of Appeals.

I was born and raised in Wood County, and have been married to my husband Shayne for 33 years.

- 1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

I feel that the education and training requirements are adequate. The Supreme Court sends all newly elected magistrates for training, and is readily available for assistance when needed. The current magistrates are sent to training conferences, where they are kept updated on changes to the law. Having 23 years experience in the court system prior to taking office is beneficial.

- 2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

We currently have four magistrates and three courtrooms. If we could add another courtroom or even set up a room for the fourth magistrate to speak with parties, this would help to ensure all four magistrates would be conducting business throughout the day. The public would be better served with this situation resolved.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 2  
Name Brenda K. Marshall

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Lifelong resident of Wood County, Mother to Victoria Pence, Muriah Lane, Grammy to Jakob, Kaylei, Cole, Landon, all of Wood County. Daughter of Robert Marshall, sister to Terri Gard, Mike Marshall. Wood County Magistrate 2002-2016, Magistrate Assistant 1989-2001. Graduated PHS 1975, attended PCC. Have completed all Educational requirements of West Virginia Supreme Court.

**1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

A high school education or equivalent and being 21 years old is the only requirement to run for the Magistrate office along with no past felonies or convictions of moral turpitude. Although the education seems scarce, the Supreme Court requires training before the taking of office. What I would like to see changed in the legislature would be that there

**2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

We always need the fifth Magistrate because of large amount of cases that come through Magistrate Court. Although we have a newly remodeled building we have three courtrooms for four Magistrates. We've discussed with county commission about changing a meeting room into a room where we could do tickets, domestics, etc., which would eliminate long wait times for the public.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 3

Name Robin A. Waters

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Robin Waters currently serving as Wood County Magistrate. Robin is married to Robert. They have three children, Andrew, Elizabeth and Isaac. Robin received a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice from West Liberty University. Robin also received extensive training from WV Supreme Court. Robin and her family enjoy residing in Vienna and participate in various community organizations and events.

**1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

Education and training is essential to any job. The more education and training a person has, the better the understanding of duties. The job of Magistrate entails dealing with people's lives on a day to day basis. Knowing how the Judicial System works, proper procedures and following the law are a must.

**2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

Wood County and the surrounding area have seen an increase of the Heroin addiction/overdose problem. Defendants come through the court system violating laws to support the addiction. As a result of the problem, the court system can be overwhelmed. At times it would be gratefully appreciated to have a fifth Magistrate.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 4

Name Jeremy L. Bungard

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

My name is Jeremy Bungard I am hometown born and raised and have lived in Wood County my whole life. I am a PHS graduate class of 1993 and continue my education at WVU-P. I work at a law firm where I help people from all walks of life. I take pride in my community and want to better it.

- 1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

No Response

- 2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

A professional who can evaluate each case individually and without bias, while keeping the needs and safety of the community in mind. An individual with common sense that can work within the guidelines in order to make a fair and impartial decision. A person that will consider real human difficulties and make a determination based upon the facts presented.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 4

Name Joe Kuhl

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Joe A Kuhl 62 married for 30 years with 2 children and a life long resident of Wood County. Retired Lieutenant Chief of Detectives with Parkersburg Police Department. A graduate of Parkersburg High School, Associates Degree from WVU-P and a graduate of the WV State Police Academy. I am a currently a Wood County Magistrate in Division 4.

- 1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

The training and education requirements are inadequate for this elected office. My recommendation would be to increase the age to 25 and require an Associates degree. At age 25 most people have obtained a level of maturity based upon their education and life experiences to handle the duties and responsibilities of a Magistrate.

- 2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

Currently Magistrate Court only has 3 Court Rooms with 4 Magistrates. A 4th Court Room, would limit delays in arraignments, hearings, jury trials, Domestic Violence Petitions and Personal Safety Orders. Also, Magistrates should be given the authority to do split sentencing.

Office Wood County Magistrate Division 4

Name Barry Murphy

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Bachelor's Degree: emphasis on Psychology/Business Administration; Associates Degree: Criminal Justice. Trained Magistrate Court Mediator through WVU School of Law. Approved with WV Board of

Social Work. Current: Contracted with WV Supreme Court of Appeals. Worked with WV DHHR with children and families. Retired Sergeant- Wood County Sheriff's Office. Received awards for work against domestic violence, work with child victims.

**1. Do you believe that the current education and training requirements for magistrates are adequate? Please explain.**

I believe that education requirements should be raised to a college degree. When dealing with issues such as setting bond and assessing penalties in criminal cases and rendering financial decisions during civil cases, a person should be adequately trained and educated to insure that fair and proper decisions are made. Knowledge of guidelines and alternatives is paramount in fairness.

**2. What do you believe is the most pressing need of the magistrate court system in Wood County?**

I feel that it would be a 5th Magistrate to be returned to Wood County. 2014 data shows that Wood handled 12,002 cases, 7th in WV. Domestic violence cases totaled 773, third in the state. A 5th Magistrate would significantly reduce times between initial appearances and the conclusion of the case and would ease the burden on citizens.

## **Wood County Circuit Court Candidates**

**Elections for this office are FINAL on May 10, 2016 and will not appear on the November ballot.**

Office Wood County Circuit Court District 1

Name J.D. Beane

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

J.D. Beane was appointed by Governor Manchin on December 15, 2006 as Circuit Court Judge for Wood and Wirt Counties and was elected in 2008 to an eight year term. J.D. has served as Chief Judge since 2011 and was a member on the Judicial Investigation Commission.

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

No. WV Supreme Court made changes in 2010 to modernize appellant rules to provide that every properly filed appeal receive a full review and a decision on the merits. This change is working. A recent report revealed from 2006-2010, 12,500 appeals were refused and since 2010 none were refused. Intermediate Court funding? 2016 budget -- 353 million deficit

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

Sixteen years practicing criminal and civil law as well as sixteen years enacting laws while serving in the legislature from 1990-2006. Served the past ten years as Circuit Judge. Appointed by the Chief Justice to sit as a Justice on the WV Supreme Court to preside over various cases. Served on special assignment as Circuit Judge throughout the state.

Office Wood County Circuit Court District 2

Name Robert A. "Bob" Waters

Party Non-partisan

## Biography

Biographical information: Judge Robert A. Waters was born in Parkersburg and graduated from Wood County Schools. He is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College and West Virginia University College of Law. He is active in rotary, scouting, and past president of the Henry Logan Children's Home. He is married to Robin and has three children Andrew, Elizabeth, and Isaac.

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

Judge Waters does not believe that an Intermediate Court should be established at this time. With the tight state budget the cost is a major consideration. Additional judges, staff, equipment, and facilities would be needed. The time and costs to litigants would also increase with an additional layer of courts. Limited resources could better be used elsewhere.

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

Judge Waters graduated law school in 1979 where he was on the Law Review and earned the Am Jur award in criminal law. He was first elected Circuit Judge in 1992 and re-elected in 2000 and 2008. He was awarded a diploma in Judicial Skills from the America Academy of Judicial Education and attended the National Judicial College.

Office Wood County Circuit Court District 3

Name John N. Ellem

Party Non-partisan

## Biography

Lifelong resident of Wood County, WV. Graduate of Wheeling Jesuit University (Economics) and WVU Law. Practiced law for 24 years. Appointed by Governor Underwood to the WV House of Delegates and served for 14 years including 10 years as Minority Judiciary Chairman. Served on the WV Ethics Commission. Married to Sherry for 15 years and have a 10-year-old daughter, Sara

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

WV could benefit from an intermediate court of appeals - something that exists in most other states. However, due to severe budget issues establishing such a court is not feasible at this time. It is an important issue that involves full access to justice

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

24 years experience practicing both civil and criminal law throughout WV and OH. During my service as a Delegate and minority chair of the Judiciary Committee I enacted many laws I now work with and earned a reputation for integrity and for working in a cooperative fashion, listening to all sides of an issue and acting fairly.

Office Wood County Circuit Court District 3

Name Jason A. Wharton

Party Non-partisan

## Biography

Eight years elected Prosecuting Attorney; Ten years assistant prosecutor; former Special Assistant U.S. Attorney; extensive trial experience; wide range of civil experience; ten year member of Drug Court Team; married to Heidi Starn Wharton; committed to the community two children who are educated in Wood County public schools; Upward youth basketball coach; Board Member – Arc of MOV, United Way. [www.JasonWharton.com](http://www.JasonWharton.com)

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

Given the state of the economy and the Supreme Court's docket, I do not support creating an intermediate court. Since WV began providing an appeal by right in 2010, written opinions are issued on all properly prepared appeals. It is more important to continue to fund the drug courts rather than create an intermediate court given the current drug epidemic.

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

A trial judge needs trial experience. As a prosecutor with 18 years experience, I have substantial trial experience and a wide range of civil experience. My eighteen years as a prosecutor has taught me to make fair, consistent, and impartial decisions based upon the evidence and the law. As Judge, I will follow the law not legislate from the bench.

## **Wood County Family Court Candidates**

**Elections for this office are FINAL on May 10, 2016 and will not appear on the November ballot.**

Office Wood County Family Court Division 1  
Name Chad Crumbaker  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Parkersburg Lawyer and Professor at WVU-Parkersburg. Previously served in Circuit Court for 7 Years for Judge J.D. Beane. Parkersburg Rotary Club – Board Member and Youth Activities Chair. Married to Katherine (Smith) Crumbaker, school nurse in Williamstown; two sons ages 6 and 4. Son of Robin (Teresa) Crumbaker of Vienna and Beth (Ronald) Goldhardt. Six siblings, five nephews, two nieces. [www.ChadCrumbaker.com](http://www.ChadCrumbaker.com).

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

With the WV Supreme Court now fully reviewing every case with written decisions and current state budget concerns, an intermediate appeals court is an unneeded additional expense for our state right now – possibly in the future. With Family Court cases, you already have the right to two levels of appeal – first to Circuit Court and second to WV Supreme Court.

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

Diverse perspective and experience: child of a divorced family I know that children need to be at the center of decisions; I neutrally and fairly reviewed more than 500 family court appeals; teacher, lawyer, and member of a family business I understand how people view their own family's cases. I am committed to my work, to people, and our Community.

Office Wood County Family Court Division 1  
Name Brian C. Dempster  
Party Non-partisan

**Biography**

I earned my B.A. from Marietta College (*cum laude*) in 1983 and my J.D. from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1988. I have worked as an assistant prosecuting attorney, served as mental hygiene commissioner, and maintained a private law practice. Since 2009, I have been a family court judge for Wood and Pleasants Counties.

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

I do not favor the creation of an intermediate court of appeals for the State of West Virginia. Circuit court functions as an intermediate appellate court for family court, so appeals are handled expeditiously. The need simply does not exist.

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

Only two of the four individuals running against me have ever handled a case in family court. Moreover, I am the only candidate who has any judicial experience. I have presided over hundreds of family court hearings as your judge.

Office Wood County Family Court Division 1  
Name Russell Skogstad  
Party Non-partisan

**Biography**

Married. Father of a two-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son. Graduated from H.S. in 1993; from WVU with a teaching degree in 1999; Masters Degree in Technology Education in 2001; law degree in 2004; Wood County prosecutor for 10 plus years; Vienna city attorney for eight years. Worked for Robert Tebay after law school; resident of Parkersburg.

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

I favor the establishment of an intermediate court of appeals if it can be shown that it would make the docket of the WV Supreme Court more efficient; would allow it time to thoroughly address more pressing issues; and if it could issue written opinions and generate common law that expedited the decision making process in the Circuit/Family Courts.

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

I have spent the last decade prosecuting cases nearly every day under several different judges and magistrates. I have extensive experience with the rules of criminal procedure, evidence, civil procedure and the trial court rules. I have prosecuted domestic violence cases and cases involving crimes against children. I have received specialized training for interviewing children.

Office Wood County Family Court Division 1

Name Ellen Smith  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I am a family law attorney and lifelong resident of Wood County, WV, where I reside with my husband and two children. I graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Marietta College in 1988. In 1992, I graduated in the top 10% of my class from WVU College of Law. Please visit my website at [www.ellensmithforjudge.com](http://www.ellensmithforjudge.com).

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

Decisions regarding child custody, spousal support and division of assets constitute some important issues family court litigants might wish to appeal. An intermediate appellate court would likely provide aggrieved parties more opportunity to be heard. Accordingly, the proposed appellate system may be a great idea, if no undue tax burden would be placed on our citizens to create it.

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

My twenty-three years of practicing law and extensive experience as a family law attorney make me the most qualified candidate. I have a genuine interest in children and families, as evidenced by the fact I have dedicated my career to working in Family Court. Further, having experienced a divorce myself, I have empathy and compassion for family court litigants.

Office Wood County Family Court Division 1  
Name Charles E. Stalnaker  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

8th generation West Virginian. Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from University of Charleston. Law degree from WVU. Award-winning 15 year career in consumer finance operating multi-million dollar branches prior to becoming an attorney. Represented veterans at hearings in 14 states and Washington, D.C. prior to opening own practice concentrating in Family Law, Bankruptcy, VA, and Social Security Disability.

**1. Do you favor establishment of an intermediate court of appeals in West Virginia? Why or why not?**

With cost estimates for implementing such a court exceeding \$5million, it is probably understandable why we have not yet done so, but we are reportedly the second most populous state of the only 11 or so states without one. The overall benefit to our justice system and our citizens may well outweigh the costs, so I generally support doing so.

**2. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for this office?**

As one of only two candidates with actual family law practice experience, I have extensive experience with parties without attorneys and the distinction dedicating the majority of my practice over the last few years to serving as a Guardian ad Litem representing the best interests of children in 8 different counties – primarily Wood and Pleasants. Children will be the

priority.

Office Wood County Family Court Division 2

Name C. Darren Tallman

Party Non-partisan

Candidate did not reply

## **Wood County Board of Education Candidates**

**Elections for this office are FINAL on May 10, 2016 and will not appear on the November ballot.**

Office Wood County Board of Education District A

Name John Badgley

Party Non-partisan

Candidate did not reply.

Office Wood County Board of Education District A

Name Belinda Fetty

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I am a mental health counselor. I grew up in Williamstown and now live in Parkersburg. Attending Marshall University, I was diagnosed with Dyslexia, giving me insight to the needs of students with learning disabilities. I was a missionary teacher with Hopi Indians, which taught me a respect for teachers doing intensive work for the education of our children.

- 1. Do you agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities, and educational programs in Wood County? Please comment.**

I am concerned about the management and lack of oversight of the financial resources at the Wood County Board Office.

- 2. Are you satisfied with the Board's current practices regarding school building maintenance? Please comment.**

No, I am not satisfied with how the decisions for maintenance and renovations have been handled in the last four years. I believe it is vital to ensure all procurement procedures, renovation projects and capital building projects are properly conducted and monitored.

- 3. If elected, what would be your highest priority goal to improve Wood County schools?**

My goal is for Wood County Schools to, once again, become this state's leaders in education! I expect the administration to work with our teachers giving them the tools and the time needed to conduct an effective education plan to increase our children's ability to read, conduct mathematical calculations and develop cognitive creative skills.

Office Wood County Board of Education District A

Name Ron Tice

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Born and raised in Parkersburg, I graduated from Parkersburg High School in 1970. In 1974, I graduated from Fairmont State College with a teaching degree in Industrial Arts. I obtained a master's

degree in adult education from Marshall University. Retired teacher from the Wood County School System. I own a business and have been officiating volleyball for 30 years.

**1. Do you agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities, and educational programs in Wood County? Please comment.**

I feel that too much money is being spent on the remodeling of board offices instead of using this money to provide needed supplies for teachers and students. I believe that the money that is allocated for facilities is being used as wisely as possible. The band programs still need additional instructors.

**2. Are you satisfied with the Board's current practices regarding school building maintenance? Please comment.**

I am satisfied that the board is doing all they can with the money that is available for maintenance. There are many schools that are in need of new roofs as well as new heating and air conditioning systems, windows, and electrical upgrades.

**3. If elected, what would be your highest priority goal to improve Wood County schools?**

My priority is to see that all taxpayers monies are used wisely to support the education process for all students. I will stress that the board be more transparent in all of their actions so the public will have more confidence in the board to make the best decisions for Wood County students.

Office Wood County Board of Education District A

Name Beth Wade

Party Non-partisan

Candidate did not reply

Office Wood County Board of Education District B

Name Ed Alfred

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Bachelors University Miami, Masters-Ohio University.

Retired Principal, co-owner Paradise Limousine, Reading Principal of the Year, FOP Distinguished Citizen Award, Member Chamber of Commerce, Lifetime PTA member, Phi Delta Kappa Education Honorary, 38 years St. Joseph's Ambulance, Volunteer Camden Clark Medical Center, PTA Outstanding Elementary Principal, Board member Wood County Day Report Center and Ritchie County Regional Health Care.

**1. Do you agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities, and educational programs in Wood County? Please comment.**

Given the financial resources available to the BOE, they are limited by the school aid formula on the use of these funds. It's always a tough call to address all the needs adequately, however priority should be given to teachers and service personnel. Long range planning should address building improvemebnts which include an equal emphasis on sports facilities.

**2. Are you satisfied with the Board's current practices regarding school building maintenance? Please comment.**

School maintenance is an ongoing issue, which includes, emergency repairs. There are currently

less employees, doing more work than in past years. Bond issues are very important and necessary for the massive amount of needs for our schools. The public has always maintained a great deal of pride in our schools.

**3. If elected, what would be your highest priority goal to improve Wood County schools?**

The highest priority to improve Wood County Schools is the upcoming Bond Issue and the need to provide adequate staffing for our schools as well as maintaining the arts and vocational programs. Our athletic facilities need the funding to maintain their programs as well.

Office Wood County Board of Education District B

Name Joseph Michael Britton

Party Non-partisan

**Biography**

I have been a Wood County resident my entire life and graduated from Parkersburg High School and West Virginia University. I attend church at Emmanuel Baptist with my wife, and my two children who attend Wood County Schools. I feel obligated in utilizing my skills and experiences to improve and to enhance opportunity for all the youth in Wood County.

**1. Do you agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities, and educational programs in Wood County? Please comment.**

No, after listening to community members, a frustration level exist in their comments concerning the amount of financial resources allocated for administration versus the amount of finances allocated towards education programs and facilities. Increasing allocation of financial resources towards education programs and facilities would allow for lower teacher pupil ratio, teacher retention, and updating technology.

**2. Are you satisfied with the Board's current practices regarding school building maintenance? Please comment.**

As any homeowner will tell you a decision has to be made for repairs or replacement based on the financial resources available. To assist the community in understanding the financial allocation of resources to maintenance facilities a plan should be available for each building to the public on Wood County Schools website forecasting maintenance and security upgrades.

**3. If elected, what would be your highest priority goal to improve Wood County schools?**

If elected, my goal is to assist in communication by increasing community involvement, participation, and knowledge. My proposal is to make the BOE more accessible to community members by holding BOE meetings in each school of the county. Social Media could be used for transparency and clarity of the budget to encourage planning and fiscal responsibility for Wood County Schools.

Office Wood County Board of Education District B

Name Lisa Moser

Party Non-partisan

**Biography**

I taught regular and special needs students from grades two through nine in Wood County Schools for 32 years. I currently am the secretary/treasurer of the Wood County Retirement Board and do trainings for Houghton Mifflin. I am married to Jug Moser and we have three children. I bring

practical knowledge of teaching and learning to the table.

- 1. Do you agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities, and educational programs in Wood County? Please comment.**

Financial resources should always be allocated first and foremost to address student needs, whether they be academic, issues of safety or extra-curricular. With a reduction in numbers of students comes a reduction in state allocated funds, making a judicious use of resources critical

- 2. Are you satisfied with the Board's current practices regarding school building maintenance? Please comment.**

It is of paramount importance to keep our buildings safe and comfortable so that teaching and learning can occur. Antiquated schools must be replaced rather than receive a "band-aid" fix. Athletic facilities must be safe and functional, but funding for those facilities must be secondary to keeping our academic buildings in good shape.

- 3. If elected, what would be your highest priority goal to improve Wood County schools?**

We must revamp special education. 'Multi-categorical' refers to a teaching degree, not a room in which an educator struggles to teach multiple grade children various subjects. No one wins. We must return to a modified, self-contained classroom to deliver tailored special education services; regular education teachers who service both special and regular students cannot properly educate both.

Office Wood County Board of Education District B

Name Kale Santee

Party Non-partisan

Candidate did not reply.

Office Wood County Board of Education District B

Name Rick Tennant

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I completed my B.S. in 1978 in Physical Education; Minor in Mental Retardation. I completed my M.S. in 1984 in Physical Education with an emphasis in Athletic Training. I have 45+ years as a Professional Educator, Coach, Athletic Trainer and Certified Adapted Physical Educator. I've served 2 terms on Wood County's Professional Staff Development Council.

- 1. Do you agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities, and educational programs in Wood County? Please comment.**

No, I do not agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities and educational programs in Wood County. I believe the prudent and responsible allocation of funds ought to be to improve student learning. This is a major reason our education system has been failing our students and society.

- 2. Are you satisfied with the Board's current practices regarding school building maintenance? Please comment.**

Safe, secure, comfortable and functional classrooms and buildings and grounds are very important to our students, staff, and communities. They are a major concern for our school systems. That includes staff and materials needed for upkeep and new construction. I believe

these funds need to be separate from those needed to improve student learning.

**3. If elected, what would be your highest priority goal to improve Wood County schools?**

My highest priority would be to improve our students' ability to learn. Their wellness will help improve their ability to learn. This can be done through all levels of our education system for all of our students. More fit students learn better and get higher test scores. We must use "learning windows of opportunity".

Office Wood County Board of Education District B

Name Timmy W. Yeater

Party Non-partisan

**Biography**

- Married, with two children and one grandchild
- Graduate of Williamstown High School
- Completed 4 year Training, Parkersburg Local 565 Apprenticeship
- 33 year Member of Parkersburg Local 565 Plumbers & Pipefitters
- Currently employed as Superintendent, Pioneer Group, Marietta Ohio
- 14 years of Service on Wood County Board of Education
- Wood County Resident since starting Elementary, 2nd Grade at Tavennerville Elementary.

**1. Do you agree with the way financial resources are allocated among administration, facilities, and educational programs in Wood County? Please comment.**

YES, the current administration is doing a great job of staying within the budget revenue supplied by the state and county. County funds are established by the School Aid Formula. It is up to the County Board to ensure the County is good stewards of state and local funding.

**2. Are you satisfied with the Board's current practices regarding school building maintenance? Please comment.**

Yes, with regards to Maintenance. Where we need work done is capital projects. School maintenance does an excellent job with the day to day operations of the school. We do not have the funding or resources to do capital projects such as roofs, structural repairs and renovation to buildings including electrical and mechanical upgrades.

**3. If elected, what would be your highest priority goal to improve Wood County schools?**

My #1 goal is to hire and support a School Superintendent that can lead Wood County and providing the best education possible for the students of Wood County. Right now, that is focusing on the preparation we need and supporting our Administration and all employees as plans are made for running a Bond Call on the 2016 ballot.

**Parkersburg Mayor Candidates**

Office Parkersburg Mayor

Name Roger E. Brown

Party Republican

**Biography**

Born & raised in Parkersburg, 1970 Graduate PSHS, attended Fairmont State College, married 40 years (Tia Wilcoxon Brown), three children: Christie (Jeremy) Willis, Eric (Catherine) Brown & Aurora,

Melody (Mark) McLean, former employers: Parkersburg National Bank, Sears (Division Manager), Manville, current employers: Electrician IBEW LU #968, City Councilman District 3, founder PSHS Alumni Association, Little League Coach, member Trinity UMC.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

First: job creation. I will revive Parkersburg as a hub for business and manufacturing, utilizing our close proximity to ten major cities.

Second: lower fees. I will request an immediate fifty cent User Fee reduction and full elimination while in office. I will also use the revenue of the current 1% sales tax to offset cuts to other city fees.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Communication and coordination between city departments are essential in order to promote public safety while adhering to the budget. The city will perform road evaluations in order to ensure that timely repairs, proper traffic flow, and sufficient lighting are being maintained.

These items are imperative to the safety and well-being of Parkersburg's citizens.

Office Parkersburg Mayor

Name Sherry Dugan

Party Democrat

**Biography**

Lifetime resident Parkersburg

Graduated PHS 1974

Graduated Kings College 1977 degree in History/Poli Sci.

Owner Das Rookhaus 1978.

Member municipal planning commission.

City council 1990-1994

Past city committees :

Facade, Sign, Municipal, Personnel, Public Works, finance.

Past National VP US Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Past Exalted Ruler,BPOE198

Member First Lutheran Church, Altrusa, Jr League and others.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Priorities for Parkersburg, Financial responsibility, and Infrastructure.

We as elected officials must appreciate the value of a dollar as we attempt to provide the best services for the least amount of money.Improved streets,water/ sewer lines and facilities, encourages business growth. Which equals increased tax base and lower fees. More services =More tax base= lower fees.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Overall Parkersburg services are some of the best in the state. I feel our biggest problem facing Parkersburg is the drug issue. I have the utmost faith in our police dept, that is operating at a disadvantage. We must have more officers, more visibility, and more community support.

Solution requires money, money comes from increased tax base as Parkersburg grows.

Office Parkersburg Mayor

Name Tom Joyce

Party Republican

### **Biography**

Tom Joyce is a lifetime resident of Wood County. A 1992 graduate of Parkersburg Catholic; degrees include BS in Business Administration (Marshall University, 1997); Master's in Human Resources and Labor Relations (WVU, 1998); Master's in Safety and Environmental Management (WVU, 2001). Co-owner of St. Joseph's Ambulance Service since 2003; currently Director of Environmental Safety and Security for Camden Clark Medical Center.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Public Safety remains paramount to our success. Parkersburg deserves leaders who support our Fire and Police Departments. Additional officers on duty provide presence to rid neighborhoods of outside drug influences and crime.

Infrastructure priorities include street maintenance and drainage repairs. Parkersburg needs long-term plans to address issues in a fiscally prudent manner. Beautification projects include removal of blighted structures.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

A lack of cooperation has made current city operations difficult. I will promote an environment of trust and cooperation which includes soliciting, listening to and respecting the input of citizens, elected officials and community leaders. We need to find positive solutions to issues and pass legislation to make Parkersburg a better place to live, work and do business.

Office Parkersburg Mayor

Name Sharyn Tallman

Party Republican

### **Biography**

Unparalleled experience in local government. Thirteen years service to Parkersburg including 3 Council terms, Twice-elected Council President. Graduate of Local Government Academy, Appointee to Board of Directors on WV Municipal League. Represented and Lobbied for Parkersburg, WV, and National League of Cities, emphasis on Community Economic Development, Family Education and Finance. PHS graduate, 6 year Navy Veteran, wife, mother.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Reduce unnecessary fees by eliminating wasteful spending. Drugs: Aggressively pursue those bringing drugs into our area or manufacturing them. Remove obstacles to Parkersburg's law enforcement cooperating with other jurisdictions. Search for ways to educate the public on the problem, better treat addictions and rehabilitate. This plague, and I use that word deliberately, touches families of all walks of life.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Wasteful spending and providing services based on favoritism are existing problems. I resolve to address these issues by applying common sense spending, holding department heads accountable, promoting values, and fairly and equally providing services to the public. I want to restore the public's faith in local government. I'll continue the support of family-friendly events across the city.

## **Parkersburg City Council Candidates**

Office Parkersburg City Council District 1  
Name Sam Henry  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

High School graduate, previously served one term on City Council, graduated from WV Leadership program. Retired from WV Department of Highways.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

2 major priorities for Parkersburg: (1) Restore the public's confidence in city government so the city can move forward.. (2) To maintain current business in the city and create opportunities for new business in the city of Parkersburg.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Drugs seem to be an issue that effects all segments of our community. We to continue to enhance our Parkersburg Police Force with other agencies to fight this war on drugs. I realize it will cost more money for enforcement and education to stop the flow and use of drugs and it is a slow process to gain control of

Office Parkersburg City Council District 1  
Name Kenneth Ed Judy  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

I have been married to Rebecca for almost 24 years. My greatest title is Shawn and Jasmies Dad. I have an Accounting Degree and have worked for the city in the past. I believe that if you want something then work for it. I want change in the City, so I want to represent District 1. God Bless You All!

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Availability of illegal drugs are a first concern. Stopping sales is only a part of it. We need more prevention and rehabilitation options. Without either of these stopping sales will not help the problem by itself. Another would be to give our children a reason to stay in Parkersburg. So many children can't wait to graduate and leave this city.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

INFORMATION! For some reason we have council member and others that don't want to do things in the open. Officials work for the people that put them in office. With some exceptions meeting should be open or at least have some type of recording available to the public. Plus returning messages that don't seem to happen now in District 1.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 1  
Name Joey Knotts  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

I grew up playing in the neighborhood's of District 1. and went on to graduate from PSHS. I was raised

in a political environment, and have a lifetime of experience to draw from to help my fellow citizen's regain their trust in our elected representative. Visit me on Facebook @ Joey Knotts for Parkersburg City Council District 1.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

My first priority is to regain the trust of the citizen's who elect our official's. My second priority is to involve our resident's in the decision making, and not shut them down for voicing opinion's. A councilman should be a friend, and listen to the people who elect him. These are my main issue in this election.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

While I can't say I have one big problem with city services, I believe through more cooperation, and transparency we can always find ways to improve the city services I think more unity is the key to any city running soundly, and being fiscally responsible in every aspect.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 1

Name Dave McCrady

Party Democrat

**Biography**

I have been involved since the beginning with the Erickson All Sports Facility, and will continue until completion. I have worked for the last 2 ½ years at Martin Elementary building 2 new playgrounds and also helped with the construction of an asphalt walking trail that will be used as a practice facility by the Martin and Edison track teams.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

1 Educate our young on the drug problem that is growing in our community. It is no longer a big city problem; it has to stop and it begins at home.

2 Unify city council as they are split at 5 to 4 on most matters before them. I will work with all council members for the good of Parkersburg.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Biggest Problem is funding the Street Dept.

They are being asked to do too much with too little of a budget. Our streets, and drainage are in a sad shape of repair. Funds must be found to address the problem. Our new tax base under home

rule has increased and a lot of the money needs to go here.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 1

Name Nancy M. Wilcox

Party Democrat

**Biography**

Nancy Wilcox, current District 1 Council Representative. Graduate of PSHS and WSCC. Over 40 years accounting experience with Walker Federal Credit Union and Kraton Federal Credit Union. Elected in 2008, served as Vice President of Council, Chairman of Budget Committee, Chairman of Finance and committees such as Public Works and Personnel . Also have a High Pressure Boiler Operators License.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

I will work to keep the progress of the city moving in a forward mode. Parkersburg continues

to grow, especially in the south side area. This growth is very positive for many reasons. One of interest to citizens is the additional revenue will allow the addition and/or replacement of infrastructure needs such as storm drains and streets/sidewalk paving.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Increasing services to reduce crime is one of my top priorities. Additional police officers need added in order to have the needed patrolmen to cover each shift. More drug task force officers are also needed due to increase in drug use and associated crimes such as breaking and entering, child abuse and the general breakdown of some residential areas.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 2

Name Sharon A. Kuhl

Party Republican

**Biography**

I am married to Joe Kuhl for 30 years and have 2 stepchildren. I am a life long resident of Wood County and graduated from Parkersburg South High 1975. I have an Associates Degree in Accounting.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Roads and infrastructure. I feel the storm drainage system is inadequate to handle the water run off. The roads have a lot to be desired!

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

The ability to deliver services with the manpower that is currently employed. Ex: For the City of Parkersburg there are only 4 Code Enforcement Officers. There is no way that they can enforce ordinances, inspect buildings-delapidated properties with this kind of manpower.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 2

Name Sharon Lynch

Party Democrat

**Biography**

Graduate Calhoun County High School; Bachelor's Degree Glenville State College; Master's Degree in Business Administration Ohio University; former Human Resources Director Camden Clark Medical Center and WesBanco Bank; former Substitute Teacher Wood County Schools; current Human Resources Director Family Crisis Intervention Center; current City Council Representative District 2

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Priorities are increasing economic opportunities and quality of life. New construction is in all areas of the city. We need to continue pursuing opportunities and commit to be business friendly. Additional business means more jobs and opportunities to increase quality of life. We need to look forward. We were elected to be civic leaders and not civic followers.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Crimes/drugs are major problems in Parkersburg. The police manpower has remained the same since 1984. In 1984, there were 16 detectives. In 2016, there are 10. The call volume has doubled and arrests have increased 22%. Increasing officers would allow more presence in the neighborhoods, offering a more proactive approach to crime versus being reactive to crime.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 3  
Name Bob Mercer  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

I was born, raised, and attended school here in Wood County. For the past 10 years I have been a Dispatcher at Wood County 911 where I make decisions that affect peoples lives. I have experience in dealing with personnel issues and working within a budget due to my jobs in the security and armored service fields.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

My 2 major Priorities for Parkersburg are ensuring that our police department has everything it needs to continue to fight the drug problem that has gripped our city. And the second is bringing back citizen faith in the people they elect. Both problems are major issues that need to be addressed.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

I believe that the biggest problem relating to city services is lack of communication to citizens about how their tax dollars are being spent. I want to be very informative and ensure they know how decisions are made concerning spending their money

Office Parkersburg City Council District 3  
Name Craig Metz  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

I am a graduate of PSHS and Glenville State College. Employed for the past 18 years as City of Vienna Public Works Director, I have managed multi-million dollar budgets for Water, Sewer, Street and Stormwater departments, designing street projects, water and sewer improvements and bio-retention systems. Certifications include Flood Plain Management, Roads Scholar, Emergency Management and Public Service Commission accreditations.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

My major priorities for Parkersburg are improvements to the infrastructure, parks and streets and providing a voice for the residents to present their concerns and ideas, growing the city from within. I want to help make things better for Parkersburg, not bigger.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

I identify the biggest problem relating to city services as the lack of attention to what the residents are asking. This can only happen when we all work together as one body, not as twenty small groups, each with its own agenda.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 4  
Name Eric Barber  
Party Democrat  
Candidate did not reply.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 4

Name Wes Riffle  
Party Republican  
Candidate did not reply.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 4  
Name John R. Sandy  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

Retired Chief Fire Inspector Parkersburg Fire Department, Retired from the WV State Police Telecommunications Division, business owner for over fifteen years. Former Parkersburg City Councilman for District 4. Former State Director for WV Special Olympics, Relay for Life Captain-Stage 4 Cancer Survivor. Father, former coach and constant volunteer. Married and responsible.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

The two major priorities for Parkersburg in the coming years are to reduce taxes and fees and to streamline government in accordance with the declining population.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

The biggest problem relating to City services is our fragile economy and frivolous spending practices. We need to streamline Government and take care of our infrastructure before increasing the size of government.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 5

Name J.R. Carpenter  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

Parkersburg Catholic , Marshall University graduate with a degree in Management. My wife and I have run The Crystal Cafe in downtown Parkersburg since 2003. I am the current sitting councilman for district 5 for the previous 3 years.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

a major issue that has been slowly being addressed is the operation of city government outside our charter. A great amount of effort has been put forth to correct this and will continue. Updating our infrastructure, roads, parks, and pools for the community will be next.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

transparency on how our money is being spent and on what projects. As a taxpayer , I want to see value for all my fees and taxes. I believe that we can reduce fees for our citizens without sacrificing any services because of the municipal sales tax. It has exceeded projections and ,if it continues, a reduction of fees should follow.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 5  
Name Clyde Way  
Party Republican

### **Biography**

Graduate of PHS and WVU-P. Previously held position as General Manager of AMICO-Canada Inc. located in Toronto, Ontario. After returning from Canada, I accepted a position with ICT Group Inc. In

2006 I was recruited as a DOD contractor for Halliburton Corporation working in Iraq until May 2012. Currently I am employed in the oil and gas industry.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Priority No. 1 is to address the drug and substance abuse issue in the Parkersburg area a byproduct of this has been a substantial increase in crime within the city limits.

Priority No. 2 is the dilapidated structures within Parkersburg. I would hold the property owners responsible by enforcing all applicable city codes to clean up our neighborhoods.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

I believe the biggest problem is the infrastructure; roads and sidewalks within the city of Parkersburg. I would start with the most heavily travelled streets with an emphasis on school areas. In addition, many school crossing are not well marked as paint lines have faded. I would direct additional funds for the street department. Safety for our children comes first.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 5

Name Lisa Zecca

Party Republican

**Biography**

MS Education Rehabilitation Counseling. For the last 20 years employed for a managed care company as a Manager and Expert Witness. Manage over 500 contractors and full time team members. Managed \$3,000,000 budget/revenue. Strong Leadership and Ethical background. Former Council Member for SJV church. Current PJJ committee member and SMMRCC volunteer. Facebook: Lisa Zecca City Council

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

My first major priority for Parkersburg is to increase resources for those in Middle and High School to graduate from school. My second priority is to initiate a formal program for Drug Awareness in all schools. These priorities will increase the success rate of our local youth, and generate a positive impact on the local economy.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

The biggest problems relating to city services are subjective based on an individuals' current circumstances or needs. My position is to create and encourage opportunities of communication to all residents both through myself and the local agencies within Parkersburg. Empowering the residents will spread hometown pride and stimulate economic growth.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 6

Name Mike Reynolds

Party Republican

Candidate did not reply.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 7

Name Rob Noland

Party Republican

## Biography

I am the owner of an Independent Sales and Efficiency Consulting firm, and a licensed realtor. With over 14 years of different professional experiences, I bring a wealth of knowledge economics, logistics, and operations. I am a volunteer coach for many local youth sports organizations, including, the YMCA, Upward Basketball, and Vienna Recreation. [www.facebook.com/Rob-Noland-474539989402214/](http://www.facebook.com/Rob-Noland-474539989402214/)

### 1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?

We have an image problem in Parkersburg. Businesses and manufacturers do not want to come to a place where they think they will have trouble, and a leadership that looks as if they don't want to work together to grow a city. We have a communication problem between leaders, council, and the citizens. If we communicate, we will prosper.

### 2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?

Our city parks should be better. While strides have been made, there is much room for improvement. There is room at City Park to expand the pool and make it a full aquatic center similar, if not better than others that have come to the valley in recent years. All our parks should be a desired destination for all ages.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 7

Name Aaron Parsons

Party Republican

Candidate did not reply.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 7

Name John Reed

Party Democrat

## Biography

Former Paramedic, St. Josephs Hospital and Parkersburg Police Officer. Parkersburg City Council in 1980s. New Store Development Coordinator for Blockbuster, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington D.C., promoted to Corporate Headquarters Ft Lauderdale to oversee test store operations. Returned to work for Wood County as Director of Building Permit and Compliance Office and currently Director, Wood County Solid Waste Authority.

### 1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?

Creating aggressive legislation to eliminate dilapidated housing. Vacant structures are left standing once they fall into unrepairable conditions. The low threshold for rental housing allows landlords to rent without keeping units in both safe and appealing condition, attracting tenants that further devalue our neighborhoods.

Establishing a Council that works as a TEAM with Administration to accomplish directions the public desires.

### 2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?

Getting the best value out of every tax dollar. Spending too much on projects that could be done better and at less cost, by spending time to explore more options and utilizing more public/private partnerships. Wood County built an entire park for \$136,500 with ZERO tax dollars, by getting community partnerships and the City could do the same for projects.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 8  
Name John W. Rockhold III  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

Completing third term on Council  
Council President for third time  
Council representative to West Virginia League of Cities  
Chairman of Supervisory Board - WV Central Credit Union  
President of Boys & Girls Club Foundation  
President of Westbrook Mental Health Board  
Licensee-in-charge of Kimes Funeral Home  
BA - Harding University  
MTh - Harding Graduate School

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

We must practice the Boy Scout motto: "Be Prepared." Secondly, we must maintain staff, equipment and resources to serve our citizens, never forgetting that as elected officials we are the citizens' voice. This is accomplished by always using the guiding principals: Do What is Right and Do What Is Best.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Our police officers are being overwhelmed by the influx of increasingly more deadly, illegal drugs. I would encourage education, cooperation, communication and increased manpower.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 8  
Name Zachary Stanley  
Party Republican  
Candidate did not reply

Office Parkersburg City Council District 9  
Name Shelly Cuppert  
Party Republican  
Candidate did not reply.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 9  
Name Jeffrey Fox  
Party Democrat

### **Biography**

Born, raised and a lifelong Parkersburg resident. Attended Emerson, Hamilton and PHS. Degrees from WV Tech and WVU-P. Electrician and a longtime member of IBEW 968. Served Local 968 as Business Manager/Financial Secretary (in charge of all operations), President and Recording Secretary. Local volunteer. [www.foxford9.wordpress.com](http://www.foxford9.wordpress.com)

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

Addressing drugs and related crime through the support of law enforcement, sensible laws and community involvement through neighborhood watch programs. Opportunities for citizens of all ages by supporting education, small businesses, recreation and arts, growing community

identity to cultivate good paying jobs with benefits. Economic development plans should grow these opportunities while being environmentally sound and fiscally responsible.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

The budget. Citizens pay yearly taxes, numerous fees and a 1% sales tax. Revenue is necessary, but the spending of revenue should be fiscally sound, transparent, efficient and shown to provide the greater good to the most citizens rather than just a few. Town hall and other open meetings to allow for greater citizen input.

Office Parkersburg City Council District 9

Name Julia Ann Monroe

Party Democrat

**Biography**

1998 graduate from PHS. Graduated from WVUP with a BA in Business Administration. I welcome citizens to contact me at [ajmcitycouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:ajmcitycouncil@yahoo.com)

**1. What are your two major priorities for Parkersburg?**

My two priorities for being elected to city council are to ensure financial transparency and ensuring we focus on infrastructure to minimize the cost of future problems. The tax and spend mentality of the current long term council members has caused an increase in taxes to the citizens without an appropriate return on this money.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

The biggest problem with the Parkersburg city government is a lack of respect for the citizens' they serve and represent. I believe we need a code of conduct for all employees and elected officials that clearly defines appropriate responses and give guidelines for response time.

**Williamstown Mayor Candidates**

**Elections for this office are FINAL on May 10, 2016 and will not appear on the November ballot.**

Office Williamstown Mayor

Name Loren Cullum

Party

**Biography**

Born in 1961. Graduated H.S. in 1980. Married Lisa Hescht in 1985. Father of three sons: Michael, Christopher, Loren R. In 1985, at the age of 24, started an automotive collision repair business in Williamstown. Certified by WreckMasters (top of class). Earned WV-CERT (Certified Emergency Recovery Team). Purchased and commercially developed 130 acres adjacent to Williamstown in 2004.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Williamstown?**

My major priorities are to serve my community and serve Williamstown in a responsible way without careless spending. Focus on the core functions of our city and reducing revenue spent on repetitive utility installations and "band-aids" to an already aging system. I would make economically conscious decisions and analyze them carefully to determine the appropriate course of action.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Recently there has been an increase in drugs and trafficking in Williamstown. I would work side-by-side with city law enforcement to help them get the additional tools needed to keep our city safe and to drive these drugs and dealers away from our streets and youth.

Office Williamstown Mayor  
Name Jean Ford  
Party

### **Biography**

Graduate Williamstown High School, Ohio School of Banking, Employed Savings Company, 17 years, First Bank, Marietta, 8 years Williamstown City Council, 7 years. Current Williamstown Mayor, 19 years, Owneroperator, Mel's Diamond House, Serves WV Woman's Commission by appointment of WV Governor, serves on Board of Ohio Valley Regional Council, Wood County Development Authority, Williamstown Kiwanis, Mid Ohio Valley Mayors Association.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Williamstown?**

Safety for my Community and a safe place for children to play is one of my priorities and my second priority is working with our Police Chief Graham to keep drugs under control in our town.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Keeping City Equipment updated, keeping our water safe, keeping infrastructure functional. I would solve these problems by budgeting each year for necessary expenses and working close with my Public Works Director.

Office Williamstown Mayor  
Name David Ward  
Party  
Candidate did not reply.

### **Williamstown City Council Candidates**

**Elections for this office are FINAL on May 10, 2016 and will not appear on the November ballot.**

Office Williamstown City Council  
Name Barbara A. Lewis  
Party

### **Biography**

Graduate, Williamstown High School, Graduate, West Virginia School of Banking, Graduate, Bank Auditors School, Washington, DC, attended WVUP 2 yrs., Fairmont, WVU Morgantown, Ohio State, Marshall, classes in banking, personnel, IT. Employed, ES&Loan 10 yrs. Williamstown Bank retired Senior Vice President in Operations, 38 yrs.. Current employment, Williamstown Police Department & Mayors Sec., also serving as City Council, 11th. Year.

**1. What are your two major priorities for Williamstown?**

Caring about the welfare of our Citizens, especially the children, hoping to help keep Williamstown, a safe place to live. Would like to find a way for Williamstown to do recycling without cost to our Citizens.

**2. What is the biggest problem relating to city services and how would you solve it?**

Helping to see that finances are in place to deal with disasters, breakdowns and replacements of old equipment. Will work with the Mayor and Council to the up most of my ability to see that we are functioning well and have what we need to do the work.

Office Williamstown City Council

Name Jim Stage

Party

Candidate did not reply.