

Voter's Guide 2010

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, founded in 1920, is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Complementing it is the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund that provides nonpartisan information and educational services to citizens.

Prior to each state and national election, the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund provides nonpartisan information on candidates and issues to its local Leagues. This information is used in Voter Guides which are distributed by local Leagues throughout the state.

All statewide candidates who filed their intent to run for office with the Ohio Secretary of State were sent questions relating to the office they were seeking, as well as instructions on how to complete the candidate questionnaire. *The League does not alter, edit, correct, or evaluate any candidate's reply, and each candidate is solely responsible for the accuracy and truth of his or her statements. Each candidate is advised in writing to carefully note the word limitations listed on their questionnaire since no text beyond the word limit will be included.*

A candidate's answers are accepted and printed only with the understanding that the material will not be used in any way that may be deemed to be an endorsement by the League of his or her candidacy or views.

This guide will be updated on September 28, 2010 to include State Board of Education Candidate Responses

**Deadline for Voter Registration is October 4th, 2010
Election Day is November 2nd, 2010**

Prepared by the
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Please visit our website: www.lwvohio.org

Candidates: Governor

Term Beginning January 2011

John Kasich – Republican Party

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Phone: 614-824-2017

Biographical Information

<http://www.kasichforohio.com/site/c.hpIJKWOCJqG/b.5280651/k.EB86/Biography.htm>

Questions & Answers

- 1) *Ohio is facing a huge budget deficit for the FYs ending in 2012 and 2013. What specific revenues increases would you support and what cuts would you make to balance the budget?*

As the chairman of the U.S. House Budget Committee, I led the effort to balance the federal budget for the first time in 30 years. I've written 13 budgets and know how to get the job done. I also know that budgets are not goals in themselves, but that they are a means of achieving goals. Ohio doesn't have a budget problem, it has an economic problem, and by undoing the economic mismanagement that has been imposed on Ohio over the past three years and which has contributed to the loss of almost 400,000 Ohio jobs, we will see immediate benefits to the state's bottom line. Working together we can set our priorities, manage this budget, make ourselves more competitive, and put the state on the path toward prosperity.

- 2) *What should be done to ensure that all community schools and nonpublic schools that accept state financial support (including vouchers) are accountable to the public?*

We must hold Ohio's entire education system accountable to ensure that all of our students are achieving at high levels. We need to set higher standards so our children can compete. We need to get education dollars to the classroom. Ohio is 47th in the nation in getting money to the classroom, and 9th in spending on bureaucracy and overhead. Instead of funding bureaucracy, we should allow funds to follow children to the classroom. We need to empower teachers to be in control of their classrooms and principals to operate their schools efficiently and effectively. All parents and students deserve high-quality education choices, and we need to use technology to engage students in creative ways. Charter schools, scholarships and voucher programs, and online education can serve as incubators for good ideas that can be translated into the public system to drive innovation.

- 3) *What would you propose, if anything, to change Ohio's tax structure?*

Ohio's business environment is flawed, and as a result our economy is suffering. According to 651 CEOs around the country Ohio's business climate ranks 44th. CNBC ranks Ohio 38th in business friendliness. One reason for this is our tax environment. Ohio ranks 47th in the Tax Foundation's State Business Tax Climate Index. We also have the 7th highest state and local tax burden in the country. The bottom line is our taxes are too high and it is making us uncompetitive in retaining and attracting businesses, growing our economy and creating jobs. I will do everything in my power to reduce the cost of government so that over time we can significantly begin reducing Ohioans' tax burdens and make us more competitive.

Ken Matesz – Libertarian Party

Address: 11965 Monclova Road
Swanton, OH
Phone: 419-825-3031

Biographical Information

<http://www.mateszforohio.com/meet-ken-matesz.html>

Questions & Answers

- 1) *Ohio is facing a huge budget deficit for the FYs ending in 2012 and 2013. What specific revenues increases would you support and what cuts would you make to balance the budget?*

The budget deficit must be eliminated by budget CUTS, not by increasing taxes. I propose freezes in public employee hiring, wages, and pensions. I propose eliminating several extraneous state programs and departments and decreasing (then eliminating) the state's role in education in favor of local school control by local school boards, teachers, and parents.

- 2) *What should be done to ensure that all community schools and nonpublic schools that accept state financial support (including vouchers) are accountable to the public?*

The best way to ensure local accountability is simply to give the schools back to the local communities and withdraw the state from intervention in local education. I support letting teachers and parents and local boards be the principle decision-makers when it comes to education.

- 3) *What would you propose, if anything, to change Ohio's tax structure?*

I would like to eliminate personal income and estate taxes immediately and follow in a few years with the elimination of property taxes. The latter may be supported by a small increase in sales tax. Overall, the intention is to greatly diminish tax burden and allow Ohioans to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Dennis S. Spisak – Green Party of Ohio

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Biographical Information

http://www.votesmart.org/bio.php?can_id=110717

Questions & Answers

- 1) *Ohio is facing a huge budget deficit for the FYs ending in 2012 and 2013. What specific revenues increases would you support and what cuts would you make to balance the budget?*

To fix Ohio's looming budget problem we must focus on three areas: New Tax Revenue, Reduced Tax Expenditures, and Reduced Programmatic Expenditures.

We must reinstate the upper bracket personal income tax rate of 7.5%, which would generate \$900 million dollars.

We must increase the CAT tax by .08%, which would cover the estimated General Revenue Fund subsidies to schools and local governments and raise over \$400 million dollars.

We must reduce tax expenditure loopholes, which cost Ohio over \$7 billion dollars a year.

We must also reduce expenditures, which could also save millions over the biennium.

2) ***What should be done to ensure that all community schools and nonpublic schools that accept state financial support (including vouchers) are accountable to the public?***

All Community schools and nonpublic schools should be held to the same accountability standards as public schools are in the state of Ohio. It's time to crack down on poor quality and failing charter schools. I am all for closing truly failing charter schools.

3) ***What would you propose, if anything, to change Ohio's tax structure?***

I would restructure the 2005 tax changes that lowered taxes for wealthy taxpayers. The Office of Budget and Management says reversing just one year of the income tax cuts would bring in \$422 million dollars. To help low-income households, raise the amount households can make before owing an income tax. Implement an Ohio Earned Income Tax Credit system like the Federal EITC. Currently, 24 states and the District of Columbia have this credit in place, which would bring low-income families out of poverty.

Raise the Commercial Activity Tax: revenues would allow for paying schedule reimbursements as well as add money to the General Revenue Fund. This could raise at least \$50 million for the state.

Retain some of the income tax portion of the corporate franchise tax. Retaining at least 1/5 of it's former rate would give the state at least \$200 million per year.

Ted Strickland – Democratic Party

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Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-545-6840

Biographical Information

http://www.tedstrickland.com/content/pages/about_ted_strickland/

Questions & Answers

1) ***Ohio is facing a huge budget deficit for the FYs ending in 2012 and 2013. What specific revenues increases would you support and what cuts would you make to balance the budget?***

First, I'm working to create jobs because a growing economy is the most important factor for long term budget sustainability.

Second, I've done what past Ohio leaders have only talked about doing – I have made tough choices to reduce the size of government and cut spending.

Third, I'm modernizing state government and finding ways to provide services more efficiently.

We're pursuing further efficiencies in the four larger systems that comprise 90% of the state's general revenue fund budget – our k-12 and higher education systems, corrections, and Medicaid.

Finally, I'll approach the budget responsibly. I have a record that Ohioans can judge. The past is the best predictor of the future and I have already balanced two state budgets by cutting spending without raising taxes.

2) *What should be done to ensure that all community schools and nonpublic schools that accept state financial support (including vouchers) are accountable to the public?*

In 2009, I signed into law an education reform plan that creates a constitutional system of school funding. Included in that package of reforms are strong accountability measures for community schools. These measures require all schools to create spending plans, ensuring that funds reach the students who need them. They also hold community schools to the high standards that traditional schools must meet and move all community schools and their sponsors under the authority of the Ohio Department of Education.

My plan also reduces the amount of time that community schools are permitted to operate in 'academic emergency' before being forced to close and prevents operators of community schools with failing track records from creating new community schools. It is vitally important that these public dollars serve our students well.

3) *What would you propose, if anything, to change Ohio's tax structure?*

During difficult economic times, and as other states were increasing taxes, Ohio enacted one of the largest tax cuts in modern history.

Ohioans now pay \$1.8 billion less in taxes each year. State income taxes are 16.8% lower than in 2004 and during my term, we carried out the elimination of the tangible personal property and corporate franchise taxes.

I also expanded eligibility for the homestead exemption tax credit. Nearly 1 in 4 Ohio homeowners, mostly senior citizens, are saving on average more than \$400 a year on their property taxes. And, as Governor, I signed laws to exempt retirement benefits of Ohio military retirees and benefits paid to surviving military spouses from state income taxes and school district income taxes.

Finally, in order to incentivize job growth, I signed legislation eliminating the tangible personal property tax on solar and wind facilities.

Candidates: Lieutenant Governor

Term Beginning January 2011

Yvette McGee Brown – Democratic Party

Address: 35 N. Fourth Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-545-6840

Biographical Information

http://www.tedstrickland.com/content/pages/about_yvette/

Questions & Answers

1) *What are the strengths you would bring to the office of Lieutenant Governor?*

Governor Strickland will have a true partner who brings a wealth of experiences to the table. I am no stranger to making difficult choices, like the ones Governor Strickland and I will continue to make to create jobs, improve education, and expand healthcare for all Ohioans.

As a county judge, voters entrusted me with the enormous responsibility of making legal decisions that impacted children's lives and our community. And as the founding President of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Nationwide Children's Hospital, I managed a large budget during tough economic times, while maintaining critical services for the treatment and prevention of child abuse and domestic violence.

I will bring these experiences to the job of Lieutenant Governor and be an advocate for children, for families, and for the continued revitalization of Ohio's urban communities.

2) ***How would you define "regionalism"? Would you support using that concept of regionalism as a way to make local government in Ohio more efficient?***

Regionalism is a way to capitalize on the unique economies of our state. Towns and cities that have a shared sense of economic identity can work together to promote economic development and government efficiency.

The Ohio Hubs of Innovation and Opportunity are a perfect example of this. The Hubs of Innovation provide an opportunity for regions to identify their strengths and to work together to build on these strengths. These hubs use a region's resources and investments to attract clusters of connected businesses, encourage new investments, and ensure a skilled workforce.

The hubs also present opportunities for regions to work more efficiently together by sharing services where appropriate. The shared services model, implemented at the state level, provides a strong model for local governments.

3) ***What specific functions of state government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of state government should not be contracted out to the private sector?***

The decision to contract out government functions is one that should be carefully considered and not taken lightly. Government has a responsibility to maintain a social safety net and to enforce the rule of law.

Some states that have attempted to privatize state functions have seen adverse effects. Savings are not always realized and accountability can be diminished. For example, the state of Nevada privatized its workers compensation system and saw rates increase and could no longer maintain group rates.

Any consideration of privatizing government functions needs to assess whether or not privatizing will cut costs, have proper accountability measures, and deliver needed services to citizens.

Ann Leech- Libertarian Party

Address: 11965 Monclova Road
Swanton, Ohio 43558
Phone: N/A

Biographical Information

N/A

Questions & Answers

- 1) *What are the strengths you would bring to the office of Lieutenant Governor?*
- 2) *How would you define “regionalism”? Would you support using that concept of regionalism as a way to make local government in Ohio more efficient?*
- 3) *What specific functions of state government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of state government should not be contracted out to the private sector?*

***Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.**

Anita Ross- Green Party

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Biographical Information

N/A

Questions & Answers

- 1) *What are the strengths you would bring to the office of Lieutenant Governor?*
- 2) *How would you define “regionalism”? Would you support using that concept of regionalism as a way to make local government in Ohio more efficient?*
- 3) *What specific functions of state government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of state government should not be contracted out to the private sector?*

***Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.**

Mary Taylor- Republican Party

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Biographical Information

http://www.kasichforohio.com/site/c.hpIJKWOCJqG/b.5718669/k.6B62/Mary_Taylors_Biography.htm

Questions & Answers

- 1) *What are the strengths you would bring to the office of Lieutenant Governor?*

As a Certified Public Accountant with 16-years of private sector experience I have successfully helped businesses grow and create jobs by solving problems impacting their bottom lines. Likewise, as Auditor of State I have helped state and local governments improve their operations and provide better service to taxpayers. As lieutenant governor I will work with John Kasich to apply this experience to get Ohio back on track by modernizing government and eliminating the barriers of high spending, high taxes, and excessive regulation that currently keep our businesses from thriving and creating jobs.

- 2) *How would you define “regionalism”? Would you support using that concept of regionalism as a way to make local government in Ohio more efficient?*

Every organization—business or government—can always improve. As Auditor of State I’ve used performance audits to help local governments be more efficient and improve the quality of the services they provide to taxpayers. Among the best-practice strategies that local governments often employ to improve their operations is to team up with neighboring governments to collaborate in purchasing, service delivery, and other functions. It is often a good solution to the ever-present need to make tax dollars go as far as possible. These types of solutions and the cooperation they represent are strategies that John Kasich and I would encourage wherever appropriate as state and local governments work together to provide better value to Ohioans.

- 3) *What specific functions of state government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of state government should not be contracted out to the private sector?*

With Ohio expected to face an \$8 billion budget shortfall next year, every program and agency must go under the microscope to be evaluated for possible savings and improvements. Nothing can be spared scrutiny for political reasons. It’s premature to discuss specifics of a budget before revenue and spending projections are known, but one area that John Kasich and I have already identified for improvement is the Ohio Department of Development. By liberating the economic development functions from the state’s current bureaucratic approach and placing them in a private, not-for-profit corporation, Ohio can more effectively retain existing businesses, pursue new businesses, and help businesses solve problems that currently hinder their ability to thrive and create jobs.

Candidates: Attorney General

Term Beginning January 2011

Richard Cordray – Democratic Party

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Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-220-4500

Biographical Information

<http://www.cordrayforohio.com/about/>

Questions & Answers

- 1) *What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities?.*

2) *Are there additional responsibilities you would want added to the office of the Attorney General? If so, what would they be?*

3) *What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records*

***Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.**

Mike DeWine – Republican Party

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Biographical Information

<http://mikedewine.com/biography>

Questions & Answers

1) *What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities?.*

2) *Are there additional responsibilities you would want added to the office of the Attorney General? If so, what would they be?*

3) *What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records*

***Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.**

Marc Allan Feldman – Libertarian Party

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Biographical Information

<http://www.feldmanforohio.com/Default.aspx?pageId=697317>

Questions & Answers

4) *What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities?*

Fight government corruption, protect the people from unconstitutional interference by the Federal Government, promote respect for the law, and promote the safety, security, and freedom of the people of Ohio.

5) *Are there additional responsibilities you would want added to the office of the Attorney General? If so, what would they be?*

I would use the powers of the office to promote open-records policies and transparency.

- 6) *What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records policy, given increased difficulty in accessing public records?*

NO ANSWER GIVEN.

Robert Owens – Constitution Party

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Delaware, OH 43015
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Biographical Information

<http://owensforohio.com/about>

Questions & Answers

- 1) *What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities?*

I will focus on enforcement of the Ohio Constitution, especially in relation to government operations. I will defend Ohio families and small businesses against overreaching federal and state bureaucracy and unscrupulous organizations. This includes litigation to protect Ohio families from mandated federal healthcare schemes, protection of Ohio families and Ohio jobs from illegal immigration and ending pay to play politics in the Office of Ohio Attorney General.

- 2) *Are there additional responsibilities you would want added to the office of the Attorney General? If so, what would they be?*

Government power needs to be reigned in, not expanded. I would seek to perform the functions of the Attorney General's office with a smaller, leaner staff, paying attention to proper fiscal management.

- 3) *What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records policy, given increased difficulty in accessing public records?*

I will work with government offices to help them with technical support to abide by Sunshine laws. At the same time, I will bring the full weight of my office against government agencies that refuse to abide by Ohio's sunshine laws in good faith. As I am not tied to the power structure of the two major parties, I have no favorites to protect but instead will truly be the champion for the people of Ohio.

Candidates: Auditor

Term Beginning January 2011

Michael Howard – Libertarian Party

Address: 656 Colony Drive
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Biographical Information

<http://howardforauditor.com/meet-mike.html>

Questions & Answers

1) *What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records policy, given increased difficulty in accessing public records?*

The Auditor of State used to have a unit devoted solely to educating officials about open records requirements, and that function will be continued. Officials should err on the side of transparency and full disclosure with the public's records. The Auditor also can and should monitor and comment on proposed laws and regulations pertaining to open records. The only "enforcement" the Auditor is reporting upon instances of violations of open records laws noted in audits.

2) *What are your priorities for the auditor's office?*

The highest priority is maintaining and expanding professionalism. The Auditor of State is one of the largest professional auditing groups in the State of Ohio; the taxpayers deserve to have a professional auditor. I would strengthen and expand to the extent possible the fraud audit function, and the advisory groups that actually help local and state governmental agencies, the Local Government Services group and the Performance Audit group. I would attempt to legally change the priority of the Auditor's office from routine financial and compliance audits, which would be more privatized, to performance audits emphasizing investigating governmental efficiency and results, including using comparative data from the private sector. I will be a full-time Auditor for the entire team, not running for some other office or putting political advisors on the State's payroll.

3) *How would you help local and state government agencies deal with the fiscal challenges they are facing today?*

The Auditor of State is in the unique position of observing thousands of units of government, some operating efficiently and effectively, and some not. From that, "best practices" can be gleaned and disseminated widely to program and other managers. The Auditor also has a performance audit function that can be used to help specific entities develop more efficient ways of delivering services. However, it needs to expand its "peer" group comparisons to include private sector entities. The Auditor's Local Government Services group also should be expanded to render more effective and targeted management advice. Of course, routine audit results also may be used to show governments how they are using their resources currently and how they might be able to use them more efficiently.

4) *As a member of the Apportionment Board, what approaches would you support to ensure an open, fair and transparent process for redistricting?*

After every decennial federal census, the Ohio Apportionment Board meets to realign Ohio General Assembly Districts. Whichever political party of the state's duopoly parties controls this board always gerrymanders these districts to arrogate to itself as much political power as possible, regardless of whether that benefits Ohio's citizens or not. That's why the districts are so misshapen and fail to meet the criteria I feel are necessary in creating such districts. I will vote for no apportionment plan that fails to meet the "3COM" criteria:

- ✓ COMpact
- ✓ COMpetitive
- ✓ COMmonality of interests

Compact means no more skinny little misshapen districts drawn to favor one duopoly party or the other. Competitive means that any candidate from any party, including Libertarians and other independents, have a roughly equal chance of representing citizens. Commonality of interest means that persons who share common values and interests are in the same district.

David Pepper – Democratic Party

Address: 407 Vine Street, PMB 185
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Phone: 513-305-0576

Biographical Information

<http://www.davidpepper.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=cms.page&id=1001>

Questions & Answers

1) *What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records policy, given increased difficulty in accessing public records?*

Transparency has been a hallmark of my public service. I have pushed to make meetings, public work and spending as accessible as possible. And I was recognized by a local newspaper as the most transparent public official.

The Auditor's office is uniquely situated to champion transparency, including strict adherence to sunshine and open-records laws. The most important step is to ensure that all officials know the details of both sunshine and public records laws, and why strict adherence to them is so important for open government. At the same time, the Auditor must inform citizens of their rights to open government, and their remedies if those rules are not followed.

More broadly, the Auditor's role as a financial watchdog means that he/she should champion transparency in other ways. I will provide a user-friendly, open window into spending, results/performance, and other government work at all levels.

2) *What are your priorities for the auditor's office?*

The Auditor can play a key role in ensuring that Ohio competes in this tough 21st century economy.

To compete, we need more effective, more efficient, less wasteful government. And we need to prioritize investments that attract and retain companies, jobs and a strong workforce.

As Auditor, my priorities will be to serve these ends by:

- Eliminating waste, fraud and misuse of taxpayer dollars.
- Working with state and local governments to reduce costs
- Making Ohio competitive for job growth by improving efficiency and reforming government

This is exactly the record I have built. I have worked tirelessly to make government efficient, keep costs down, promote ethics and prioritize investments in long-term growth. As a result, we reduced County spending by \$60 million, to the lowest level in more than a decade, while making investments to spur economic growth and create jobs.

3) *How would you help local and state government agencies deal with the fiscal challenges they are facing today?*

Ohio's Auditor is well-positioned to help government at all levels save tax dollars through efficiencies and reforms.

I will take the approach we see from other State Auditors in the country: rooting out waste, fraud and abuse while championing performance audits, best practices reviews, cost-saving reforms such as shared services/consolidation, targeting efficiencies and benchmarking performance.

In my years in public service, this is the work I've done. I have balanced budgets and made the tough choices that Mayors, Commissioners and Councilmembers are facing today. In Hamilton County, I pushed for ways to make government more efficient, share and consolidate services, keep costs down, and prioritize investments in long-term growth. As a result, we have reduced spending in the County by \$60 million, to the lowest level in more than a decade, while making investments to spur economic growth and create jobs.

4) *As a member of the Apportionment Board, what approaches would you support to ensure an open, fair and transparent process for redistricting?*

Ohio's system of elections is broken. The Apportionment Board, which draws the district lines every 10 years, has been used to cynically gerrymander election districts to create safe legislative seats, immune to the voter's will. Take the State Senate. In the past two cycles—2006 and 2008—only one of thirty-three races fell within five points. One additional race fell within ten points. Two-thirds were determined by more than 20 points!

The result of such “easy win” districts are 1) politicians who don't face real elections and don't feel accountable to the voters and 2) government gridlock when politicians from one-sided districts can't work together.

Now, more than ever, Ohio voters deserve elections where their vote can make a difference. So I view the Auditor's seat on the Apportionment Board as a responsibility to create competitive districts that add accountability and that give voters a real choice in elections.

Dave Yost – Republican Party

Address: 832 South Fifth Street
Columbus, OH 43206
Phone: 614-456-1231

Biographical Information

<http://daveyost.com/about>

Questions & Answers

1) *What would you do to enforce Ohio's sunshine laws and open-records policy, given increased difficulty in accessing public records?*

I would like to make public records easier to access online. Also, as State Auditor, I plan to root out corruption where it starts, before government officials have to worry about the public records.

2) *What are your priorities for the auditor's office?*

As I have done as county prosecutor, I will continue to root out corruption and waste. Clean government is my first priority. I will also comb over every part of the Ohio government looking for ways to save money and improve efficiency. consolidation is important. I've also called for performance audits of all state agencies. We are facing a projected \$8 million deficit in our next budget, and I believe the office of Auditor of State should have additional authority to review state agencies for efficiency.

3) *How would you help local and state government agencies deal with the fiscal challenges they are facing today?*

I will ask the Ohio General Assembly to pass legislation that grants the Auditor of State explicit, statutory authority to initiate performance audits of all state agencies. We are facing a projected \$8 million deficit in our next budget, and I believe the office of Auditor of State should have additional authority to review state agencies for efficiency.

4) *As a member of the Apportionment Board, what approaches would you support to ensure an open, fair and transparent process for redistricting?*

I support compactness, maintaining communities of interest and competitiveness, each with equal weight. The goal should not be partisanship. When you approach it with those three principles in mind, it maximizes the voice of the voters.

Candidates: Secretary of State

Term Beginning January 2011

Charles Earl- Libertarian Party

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Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
Phone: NA

Biographical Information

<http://www.earlforohio.com/>

Questions & Answers

1) *What election reforms do you support?*

2) *Do you believe the Secretary of State should avoid involvement in partisan politics and, if so, what steps would you take to accomplish this?*

3) *How will you ensure fair, honest, and impartial election administration in Ohio?*

4) *Who do you believe are disenfranchised voters and how would you ensure their rights to vote?*

5) *As a member of the Apportionment Board what approaches would you support to ensure an open, fair and transparent process for redistricting?*

***Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.**

Jon Husted – Republican Party

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Biographical Information

<http://www.hustedforohio.com/biography>

Questions & Answers

1) What election reforms do you support?

I am a co-sponsor of the election reforms in Senate Bill 8, which passed the Senate and is pending in the Ohio House. I have been actively involved in offering suggestions to bring compromise to the process so that broad-based bipartisan support can be developed to avoid the controversies from out-of-state influences that have undermined confidence in Ohio's system of elections. Additionally, I support establishing a one-time, bipartisan election advisory commission— made up of Republican and Democrat co-chairs – to gather information and make recommendations to the Secretary of State to provide stability to those on the frontlines of elections operations and ensure our state conducts elections in a manner in which we can all be proud.

2) Do you believe the Secretary of State should avoid involvement in partisan politics and, if so, what steps would you take to accomplish this?

We must stop using the office of Secretary of State as a tool to gain partisan advantage in elections. This undermines confidence in elections, and if you cannot trust how you elect a government, the people of our state will not trust the manner in which we govern.

I will work with local boards of elections and others to provide leadership that builds trust and confidence in Ohio's system of elections and will create a culture in the Secretary of State's office where our goal is always to remember we are there to serve the public.

3) How will you ensure fair, honest, and impartial election administration in Ohio?

Elections are not and should not be run from Columbus. Elections are run at the local level, and the job of Secretary of State is to provide help and guidance for local elections officials to ensure elections are run smoothly and with integrity. I will avoid using 11th hour directives that have undermined the trust and relationship between the Secretary of State and local boards of elections. I will act as a fair and timely arbiter as disputes arise – casting aside partisanship and utilizing law and rule to resolve ties and disagreements.

4) Who do you believe are disenfranchised voters and how would you ensure their rights to vote?

For too long, many of our voting procedures, failed to recognize the unique logistical challenges faced by military personnel and other overseas voters. I am proud to be a part of an effort to rectify this situation in Ohio. Earlier this year, I introduced a resolution which urged Congress to support legislation that ensures military and overseas voters have the opportunity to register to vote and cast a ballot. Congress came through last fall by passing the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.

The legislature quickly took action to ensure Ohio is in compliance with the new provisions of the act. I supported the new law that allows military voters serving overseas to apply and return voter registrations electronically to the Secretary of State. Ensuring military voters have adequate time to receive and send back their ballots, the legislation requires ballots be available 45 days prior to Election Day.

5) As a member of the Apportionment Board what approaches would you support to ensure an open, fair and transparent process for redistricting?

I have been a leader in changing the partisan system of redistricting that allows the politicians to pick the voters, rather than allowing the voters to elect their public officials. Redistricting reform will return elections to the accountability system they were intended to be. If we want our public officials to cast aside partisan goals in favor of bipartisan cooperation, we must do more than change the people in public office, we must change the system.

By establishing more competitive districts, voters will be given a greater opportunity to voice their support or displeasure with their elected officials at the ballot box. If we want our public officials to cast aside partisan goals in favor of bipartisan cooperation, we must do more than change the people in office, we must change the system.

Maryellen O'Shaughnessy – Democratic Party

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Questions & Answers

1) What election reforms do you support?

I support the elections reform package presented in H. B. 260. Legislators are continuing to work out a compromise measure, I and hope that a bill will move forward in order to continue to improve elections processes in Ohio. As Secretary of State, I look forward to working to: continue support of early in-person and by-mail voting; review and simplify vote-by-mail processes, to reduce error; explore and employ cost savings measures, in partnership with boards of elections, like voting centers and purchasing pools; continue to work toward more consistent application of poll worker training; continue to improve processes for poll worker recruitment; explore feasibility of online voter registration; continue to look for ways to securely employ new technologies; work toward better education on voting rights, followed by assured voter registration for high school seniors; simplify confusing voter ID laws; clarify use of and reduce reasons for provisional balloting.

2) Do you believe the Secretary of State should avoid involvement in partisan politics and, if so, what steps would you take to accomplish this?

Yes, I do. There has been overtly partisan activity in the administrations of former Secretaries of State. I believe that such activities tend to undermine citizens' trust in elections. I am a Democrat, and bring those values with me to the office. But upon election, the Secretary of State must work for all Ohioans to assure fair and trustworthy elections. As Chief Elections Officer, I will not endorse candidates or ballot issues, and will rely on the partnership, advice and guidance of bipartisan and nonpartisan elections specialists as I ensure that all qualified Ohio electors have access to a fair and trustworthy elections process. There are two important resources: the 88 county bipartisan boards of elections, and the current bipartisan Voting Rights Institute, both of which will bring a balanced point of view to the office. I will employ Republicans and Democrats in the office, to assure a balanced viewpoint.

3) How will you ensure fair, honest, and impartial election administration in Ohio?

I will continue to build on the reforms put in place in recent years by our current Secretary of State. I will continue to work to enfranchise all qualified Ohio citizens, while taking a strong stand against any instance of voter fraud or suppression. I support doing a comprehensive review of the environment and related facts

regarding allegations of voter fraud in Ohio, in order to create strong and effective policies that will address these issues. I support the use of post election audits to increase voter confidence in election outcomes and processes, and will look for ways to do this cost effectively.

4) *Who do you believe are disenfranchised voters and how would you ensure their rights to vote?*

Unfortunately they are many and they have many faces. They range from those disaffected by negative campaigning and unresponsive elected officials, to the more generally recognized categories: young Ohioans, the poor, and homeless, the disabled, new Americans. We need to continue to educate Ohioans on the importance of the participation of all qualified electors in the process and give them opportunities to do so that are simple, easy to access, and secure. We need to continue to ensure that polling places and practices are accessible. We need to make sure that the provisional ballot and identification rules aren't used to disenfranchise voters. We also need to work with teachers to ensure that a strong civics education, including the history of the struggle for voting rights, is included in high school curricula, and assure that high school seniors are registered to vote.

5) *As a member of the Apportionment Board what approaches would you support to ensure an open, fair and transparent process for redistricting?*

I was dismayed that a compromise effort to reform the process failed in the Ohio Legislature. In the wake of that failure, we now will elect and seat five Apportionment Board members to decide what the Ohio Legislature will look like for the next ten years, following the current set of rules. We need to commit to delivering on the spirit of the reforms brought forth, and have a process that is fair, and transparent, that includes citizen participation, that uses objective criteria to balance the state so no one political party has an unfair advantage, that results in competitive districts, keeps communities of interest together, strives toward compactness, and protects minority voting rights. There is no prohibition on employing these measures. I have pledged to do so, and as a member of the Board I will work to assure that such procedures will be followed.

Candidates: Treasurer

Term Beginning January 2011

Kevin L. Boyce – Democratic Party

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Questions & Answers

1) *What additional safeguards will you put in place to protect public investments? What are your investment strategies that would safely maximize the rate of return?*

After becoming Treasurer, I made tough choices to protect Ohio's tax dollars while growing our revenue. First, I directed my administration to use private sector best practices that have earned \$300 million in new investment income for Ohio. Second, I created a historic competitive bidding process for banking contracts that saved Ohioans \$19 million. Third, I focused on cost savings, reducing Treasury expenses by 10.6% and taking two voluntary pay cuts myself.

Because of this sound financial management, the Ohio Treasury has not lost a single dime to bad

investments in the worst economic times since the Great Depression.

2) ***What would be your investment policy—to invest at a higher rate outside Ohio, or to support Ohio businesses, even though the return might be lower?***

I invest in Ohio every day as Treasurer, helping to create and retain over 55,000 Ohio jobs.

The Ohio Revised Code provides discretion to invest up to 12% of our portfolio in Ohio through linked deposit programs, while the remaining 88% of our portfolio is invested almost exclusively in US government obligations.

Using my authority, my GrowNOW staff work with banks across Ohio to help businesses get a better rate on their loans, investing almost \$200 million in less than two years. We've allocated over \$200 million for Ohio family farms through AgLINK, a program that helps farmers with loans for their operating needs. We even empower residential homeowners to go green by making home energy efficiency updates more affordable with EcoLINK.

3) ***What criteria would you use to select among equally qualified investment vehicles?***

Challenges with toxic assets like Lehman Brothers should serve as a warning for all public servants. The second criteria would be the liquidity of the assets. Finally, we must ensure that, within the bounds of prudent fiscal management, we are maximizing the rate of return for Ohioans.

For 12% of our portfolio that may be invested in Ohio via link deposit authority, our foremost criterion remains safety of the public assets. Second, we look for the ability of the farmer, small business or, in the case of EcoLINK, household, to support the creation and retention of Ohio jobs. Finally, we continue to look for opportunities to grow our link deposit programs to serve even more Ohioans.

Matthew P. Cantrell – Libertarian Party

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Questions & Answers

1) ***What additional safeguards will you put in place to protect public investments? What are your investment strategies that would safely maximize the rate of return?***

I will recommend that state pension funds reduce the portion of non-investment grade securities, and mortgage related securities. I will also seek an independent review of all current and proposed hedging strategies to mitigate risk. Finally, I will recommend that our pension fund long term growth assumptions be reduced from the current 8.00% level, as some states have done. This conservative assumption will give Ohio additional flexibility in future decades if long term growth materializes higher than expected.

Regarding strategies to safely maximize rate of return, I believe that it is imperative for Ohio to continuously adapt its investments and strategies to changing market conditions. While it is certainly appropriate to have detailed procedures and laws guiding transactions on behalf of the public, we need to review whether these procedures are keeping Ohio from quickly exiting investments when necessary.

- 2) ***What would be your investment policy—to invest at a higher rate outside Ohio, or to support Ohio businesses, even though the return might be lower?***

The vast majority of Treasury assets are currently invested outside of Ohio, and a considerable portion of pension fund assets are invested outside of the United States. The Treasurer of State has a fiduciary and legal responsibility to properly invest taxpayer dollars while mitigating risk. I reject any proposal which compromises this responsibility, including an “invest in Ohio” initiative. Such an initiative will only benefit the politician seeking publicity, not the taxpayer.

- 3) ***What criteria would you use to select among equally qualified investment vehicles?***

I do not believe that it is possible for two investments to be “equally qualified.” While two bonds may have the same credit rating, or two assets may have the same historical rate of return, this does not make the investments “equally qualified.” There are an infinite number of variables and factors to consider when analyzing such a decision. The challenge is being trained to see the big picture, to formulate a strategy, to be firm in the strategy, yet flexible enough to adapt when conditions or facts change.

For these reasons, I believe it is crucial for the Treasurer’s office to perform independent modeling and research to compliment any third party analysis or ratings.

Josh Mandel – Republican Party

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Questions & Answers

- 1) ***What additional safeguards will you put in place to protect public investments? What are your investment strategies that would safely maximize the rate of return?***

Unlike the current officeholder, I will ensure that my staff is comprised of qualified financial professionals—rather than political cronies and friends—and that investment decisions are based on what is best for Ohioans. The state investment scandals showed us all that we must be vigilant about potential abuses of taxpayer dollars. I was involved with the reconstruction of the BWC Investment Fund in the wake of the scandal involving that fund. Being part of the BWC restructuring gives me the experience necessary to recognize that proper safeguards are in place to protect tax dollars and state funds.

- 2) ***What would be your investment policy—to invest at a higher rate outside Ohio, or to support Ohio businesses, even though the return might be lower?***

The Ohio Treasurer’s office has tools to encourage business growth in Ohio that are not being properly utilized by the current officeholder. I plan to do a complete review of existing programs to identify ways to improve them, including an expansion of the linked deposit program in order to make capital more readily available for businesses and job creation. Additionally, I want to be an economic policy leader in creating a more business friendly tax and regulatory environment in Ohio. I will continue to fight for the consolidation of state government agencies, reducing the size of the state workforce, and eliminating unnecessary regulations and bureaucracy.

- 3) ***What criteria would you use to select among equally qualified investment vehicles?***

The State Treasurer's ultimate responsibility is to protect Ohio's public dollars. In doing so, the principles of Safety, Liquidity, Yield must be followed, and in that order. Given the current condition of the State's finances, only the safest investments can be made with the state's money, while keeping the portfolio liquid as needed. As State Treasurer, I will identify opportunities to make prudent investments to maximize returns while focusing on protecting public dollars and the ensuring appropriate liquidity is established.

Candidates: Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio

Term Beginning January 2011

Eric Brown

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Biographical Information

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Questions & Answers

1. How do you define "judicial independence," and how important is it to our judicial system? What measures ensure an independent judiciary?

The General Assembly writes Ohio's laws and the Governor administers them, however the Supreme Court decides their meaning and how they will be applied to real-world situations. Courts have responsibility to review laws to ensure they comport with the Ohio and United States Constitutions. This power of judicial review gives meaning to our system of checks and balances.

Generally, the meaning of laws is unambiguous, but sometimes, given a particular set of facts, the meaning is not clear and must be discerned by various well-established rules of construction. In these cases, courts must provide an interpretation that makes sense, providing appropriate deference to the role of lawmakers and with an eye to providing justice.

Courts must be and remain independent of the other branches of government, working cooperatively on administrative and fiscal matters, while vigilantly protecting judicial independence with respect to deciding cases.

2. Would you recuse yourself if a party before you had made a significant judicial campaign expenditure toward your election? Please explain.

Disqualification of a judge is governed by the Code of Judicial Conduct, particularly Rule 2.11, by common sense, and by the imperative of providing fair and impartial justice. Comments to the rule specifically provide that public support or campaign contributions within the limits allowed by the rules do not disqualify a judge. Because the code substantially limits the amount of campaign contributions, it is unlikely that a judicial candidate in Ohio will ever be disqualified for reasons of due process, as in *Caperton*. However unlikely, the issue could arise in connection with independent expenditures, and if so, disclosure and due process analysis would guide my decision.

Importantly, the rules provide for disclosure of information that might lead a judge to disqualify, and for reasons other than personal bias or prejudice, parties may independently waive disqualification. In close cases, I disclose information to best ensure fairness.

3. *What do you perceive to be the greatest obstacle to justice in Ohio?*

Courts (and government) serve by consent of the people, which means that to provide justice, courts and judges must have the trust and confidence of the people they serve. Throughout my judicial career, I have worked to ensure that all persons who come to court are treated with respect and courtesy, that all persons have their matters considered fairly and impartially, and that every person leaves the court knowing that they have been heard. Achieving these goals also requires a commitment to diversity and equality, and I am determined to see the Ohio judicial system significantly improve.

Throughout my career, I have been motivated primarily by public and community service, and by helping others. I believe that judges and lawyers should be engaged in their communities.

Maureen O'Connor

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Biographical Information

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Questions & Answers

1) *How do you define "judicial independence," and how important is it to our judicial system? What measures ensure an independent judiciary?*

Judicial independence is essential to our legal system and is its very foundation. It is being faithful to the 'rule of law' without respect to persons, politics, or special interest groups. Only the public can ensure independence of the judiciary in an elected system by voting based on knowledge about the candidate, qualifications and record. Groups like the LWV play a crucial role in educating the voters with impartial material. The candidates' websites are also information rich sources.

2) *Would you recuse yourself if a party before you had made a significant judicial campaign expenditure toward your election? Please explain.*

As long as the contribution is under the limits set by rule there is a presumption that there exists no conflict of interest. Because judicial candidates disclose all contributions on a regular basis, by law, by reporting to the Sec. of State there are no hidden contributions and all is available for public scrutiny. I recuse from cases in which I have a conflict by virtue of my previous positions or any other reason.

3) *What do you perceive to be the greatest obstacle to justice in Ohio?*

I believe that there needs to be a method to bolster the confidence in the legal system among many of our citizens. It has nothing to do with politics or geography and has everything to do with the socio-economic factors.

Education, involvement and participation are ways to dispel false impressions of the judiciary and ways to encourage more people to become involved not only in the legal system but in government as a whole. There is room for all to participate. Being an educated voter about all races, not just the partisan or top of the ticket races, ensures that the rule of law guides our courts. Judges on all levels should be engaged in

appropriate forums to let people know about the job of a judge. Without that “T.V. Judges” will continue to create a false image of our justice system.

Candidates: Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio

Term Beginning January 2011

Judith Ann Lanzinger

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Questions & Answers

- 4) *How do you define "judicial independence," and how important is it to our judicial system? What measures ensure an independent judiciary?*

Judicial independence, the foundation of the third branch of government, does not mean that judges may decide cases however they wish. It means that judges must adhere to the rule of law no matter how their decisions may be viewed by the public. Supreme Court justices and other judges, although elected by voters, cannot “represent” any particular group or advocate any particular position. We are judges, not legislators or members of the executive branch. Our judicial oath says we must administer cases under the law, "without respect to persons." This means that all parties to a case deserve to be heard and have their arguments considered by unbiased and impartial deciders.

Information and education helps citizens understand that an independent judiciary allows courts to be fair and strive to give equal access to justice under law.

4. *Would you recuse yourself if a party before you had made a significant judicial campaign expenditure toward your election? Please explain.*

Under Ohio law, individuals (spouses, individual attorneys, etc) may contribute up to \$3,450 to a Supreme Court candidate while political action committees and law firms may contribute up to \$6,325. These limits, presumed to be reasonable, are followed, so there is no likelihood that a “significant judicial campaign expenditure” would prevent me from sitting on a case.

My record shows that I do not participate in any cases in which my children or son-in-law are counsel of record. I have recused myself from considering discretionary review of cases on which my opponent (an appellate judge) has written an opinion. I do not participate in an appeal if I have been a trial judge on the case. In short, I will recuse, sua sponte, when there is possibility that a reasonable person would believe I could not be impartial.

5. *What do you perceive to be the greatest obstacle to justice in Ohio?*

When I taught in Moscow for the National Judicial College, former Soviet Union judges were amazed to be told that American courts have no army to enforce decisions, but because people believe in and respect our courts, they abide by their rulings.

Since the rule of law depends on the belief and confidence of the public in an impartial and fair judiciary, I think that the greatest obstacle to justice is misperception and misunderstanding of the third branch of government. For that reason, in a non-political blog, <http://justicejudy.blogspot.com> I am currently writing about law, civics and the judicial system. The more people know about how judges work and how the courts actually function, the more interested they will be. And greater interest should make courts even better.

Mary Jane Trapp

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Biographical Information

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Questions & Answers

- 1. How do you define "judicial independence," and how important is it to our judicial system? What measures ensure an independent judiciary?***

The framers of our Constitution developed a system of government that would avoid the centralization of power in any one person or institution. The role of the judiciary is judicial review; to follow the rule of law and check abuses of that law by the executive and legislative branches. This concept is not written in the Constitution. It has been developed over time in the common law tradition through case law. Judges do not legislate. They should not create out of whole cloth laws that have been non-existent in the state. Ultimately though, "judicial independence" means that it is the job of the court to be the chief interpreter and arbiter of the Constitution.

To ensure an impartial judiciary not influence by political or special interests we must look at proposals for reform which include consideration of public financing, wide distribution of League of Women Voters' informational voter guides, a stronger recusal rule, and increased objective qualifications for judges.

- 2. Would you recuse yourself if a party before you had made a significant judicial campaign expenditure toward your election? Please explain.***

I would recuse myself when there is a "serious and objective risk of actual bias" that arises when a party "with a personal stake in a particular case had a significant and disproportionate influence in placing the judge on the case by raising funds or directing the judge's election campaign when the case was pending or imminent." This is the standard set by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Massey Coal case.

- 3. What do you perceive to be the greatest obstacle to justice in Ohio?***

Assuring affordable and equal access to justice. In my travels as state bar President and now as an appellate judge, Ohioans tell me they want to have confidence in their courts. They want a fair and impartial justice system in which to resolve disputes and protect their rights. Ohioans facing barriers to access necessarily lose confidence in the judicial system. Moreover, as the late Chief Justice Moyer explained, "The idea of a multiple-judge court certainly is that the process includes people of different backgrounds, different philosophies, different views on issues, and the perception of an all-Republican court is that we don't have that." We must meet the unmet legal needs of working families. The rule regulating how cases are tried,

regulating the lawyers and judges, and regulating court operations must promote confidence in our judicial system, fair and impartial decision-making, and efficient, economical, and transparent operations.

Candidates: Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio

Term Beginning January 2011

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Running Unopposed

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Questions & Answers

1. *How do you define "judicial independence," and how important is it to our judicial system? What measures ensure an independent judiciary?*
2. *Would you recuse yourself if a party before you had made a significant judicial campaign expenditure toward your election? Please explain.*
3. *What do you perceive to be the greatest obstacle to justice in Ohio?*

***Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.**

Candidates: U.S. Senate

Term Beginning January 2011

Eric W. Deaton – Constitution Party

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Questions & Answers

- 1) *What is the role of the federal government in regulating the private sector?*

The federal government initially had limited power and resources to regulate private enterprise in our country. As our nation industrialized the need was found to regulate large companies that controlled the market through monopoly status. During WW2 we had a government that regulated nearly every aspect of our economy through the war powers act, but this control slowly subsided and deregulation prevailed for

about 50 years. We now are on the upswing with the government taking control of healthcare and the financial markets to the detriment of free markets and competition that made our nation so great to begin with. Our government's role should be to simply protect the rights of the citizens and states as well as to provide for those things expressly granted to them within the U.S. Constitution. This model served a growing nation well and allowed us to be innovative and competitive in the global marketplace.

2) ***How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?***

Our response to undocumented immigrants and to terrorism should be to close the border through fencing and enforcement. The second step of repatriating these people would be to prosecute those hiring them so that when they can't find employment, they'll go home. The last step would be to create a fair and regulated process to bring in migrant workers and allow legal immigrants to come, be documented and followed with some accountability. We've required immigration since our nation's beginning due to our fast growing economy's need for workers. As a nation of immigrants we should have systems in place to reward those following the rules with the opportunities America has to offer. Immigration has made us a diverse and strong nation with many cultural flavors to enjoy and celebrate. I'll work to give us an immigration policy that's fair to Americans and to those called by our "Beacon of Liberty".

3) ***What specific functions of the federal government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of the federal government should not be contracted out to the private sector?***

The U.S. Postal Service is a good example of a government function that can be outsourced to the private sector, which has proven it can be profitable in delivering mail and packages. Other examples include National Park Services, Social Security processing and FEMA response initiatives. Defense and weapons development have for many years been contracted to private enterprise to develop and maintain equipment and systems successfully.

The military's core service personnel should always be government employees. There have been many problems where government contractors that provide security details in war zones have made bad decisions and caused damaging press and troubles in our nation's diplomacy. Combat and security details in a war zone should always be left to our soldiers who are under military command directly. Support operations such as water and fuel hauling, food preparation and equipment repairs can be contracted out when behind the lines in combat zones.

Lee Fisher – Democratic Party

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Questions & Answers

1) ***What is the role of the federal government in regulating the private sector?***

Through this economic crisis, we have let Wall Street run out of control. As your Senator I am going to make Main Street – not Wall Street – my priority and will work to ensure that we never fall back into this economic ditch.

The government must create an environment for job creation, and I have a plan for creating jobs here in Ohio. I will end tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and create a federal job creation tax credit for companies that create good jobs in America. I will redirect stimulus funds to projects immediately creating jobs. I will create a \$30 billion small business loan fund, and I will double the tax deduction for small business start-up costs. I will also make the clean energy manufacturing tax credit permanent and extend the research and development tax credit to keep and create jobs in Ohio.

2) *How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?*

Our immigration system is broken. Politicians in Washington have let us down and instead of reforming the system they have used the issue to grandstand for political benefit. First, we must secure our borders. Then, we must crack down on corporations that knowingly hire illegal workers. Finally, we must provide a way for those illegally in the country to become legal if they learn English, pay a fine and go to the back of the line behind those who have attempted to become immigrants legally. I also believe that allowing skilled workers to bring their abilities to the U.S. and help American companies thrive is important—we don't want those skilled workers going to other countries to develop new technologies, new medicines and start new businesses when they can create new jobs and industries here in Ohio.

3) *What specific functions of the federal government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of the federal government should not be contracted out to the private sector?*

Social security is a contract between our government and hardworking Americans, and I promise to protect social security and fight any risky privatization schemes to gamble social security on the stock market.

With respect to the delivery of human services, non-profits are often better providers. I also believe that public-private partnerships are essential to economic growth.

Daniel H. La Botz – Socialist Party

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Questions & Answers

1) *What is the role of the federal government in regulating the private sector?*

Corporations today dominate our economy, society, culture and politics. The irresponsible actions of Massey Energy and BP make clear that we must regulate every aspect of the corporations and their greedy, selfish CEOs and boards. Finances, health and safety, labor relations, production, and products must all be regulated. Corporations have too much power and do too much damage. The oil companies, for example, have controlled our economy, thwarted attempts to create better environmental policies and taken the US into foreign wars for their profits. We must bring corporations under the ownership and control of the American people. We need to transform the corporations into socially-owned and managed firms within the context of a national economic and environmental plan. Why should a corporate board have the power to shutdown and ruin a community as DHL did in Wilmington? We the people together can do better than that.

2) *How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?*

Most of the 12 million undocumented people in the US came because they could not find work in their own countries that paid a living wage. Some U.S. corporations have gone to great lengths to lure workers and their families here, hiring them to work in their plants as factory workers and their offices as janitors. At the same time, the U.S. government has failed to make available enough visas for these workers, so that they must work under false names using false SS numbers. Many of these workers do not know English and do not know their labor rights. These corporate and governmental policies have permitted an inhumane and vicious exploitation of these workers. We must legalize all of the immigrants here now ASAP and give them residence and rights so that they can join with other workers in union campaigns to improve wages and benefits for all.

3) *What specific functions of the federal government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of the federal government should not be contracted out to the private sector?*

Contracting out is a shortsighted policy that destroys the integrity and capability of government agencies, weakens actual citizen and government control over agencies, and harms unions and workers, as well as consumers and the general public. Governments and private employers often contract out to non-union companies or companies that pay substandard wages. We see the results in the poor performance of U.S. government agencies weakened and sometimes corrupted by contracting out policies. Consider the consequences of the FDA contracting out food surveillance to private companies: outbreaks of E. coli and other diseases. We can also see the result of contracting out in military's hiring of private mercenaries such as Blackwater which engaged in irresponsible and criminal behavior both in the US and abroad. Contracting out often serves as the first step to privatization of government owned services such as schools and water. Contracting out undermines good government services.

Rob Portman- Republican Party

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Biographical Information

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Questions & Answers

- 1) *What is the role of the federal government in regulating the private sector?*

- 2) *How will you address the challenges and opportunities to the United States posed by unauthorized immigrants?*

- 3) *What specific functions of the federal government can be performed better by contracting with the private sector? What specific functions of the federal government should not be contracted out to the private sector?*

***Candidate Response was not received by publication deadline.**