



Voter Guide 2020



Ohio House and Senate Candidates

All candidates were posed six questions by the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. Responses to two of the questions are printed here; the full Voter Guide is available online at vote411.org.

Questions:

1. What changes in tax, formula funding, and voucher policies would you advocate to reduce reliance on local property taxes to fund public education?
2. What will you do to ensure implementation of voter-approved redistricting reforms?

OHIO HOUSE, DISTRICT 16

Ohio House District 16 comprises Bay Village, Westlake, Rocky River, Fairview Park, and North Olmsted. Representatives serve 2-year terms.



DAVE GREENSPAN (R)

Age: 55

Education: Bachelor of Science, Accounting and Business Administration Troy University, Troy, Alabama 1988

Current Employer: Green Elk Consulting Services, LLC and the State of Ohio

Residence municipality: Westlake

Campaign Website: GreenspanForOhio.com

Campaign Phone: 440-835-3820

1. Education Funding: I have been advocating for a review and change to the current school funding formula. I am a co-sponsor on the most comprehensive school funding bill in years, the Cupp-Patterson Bill.

Earlier this year, I hosted a Townhall meeting in Westlake, in which the two sponsors, Representatives Cupp and Patterson, were in attendance. At that event, they outlined their program and answered questions from those in attendance.

Additionally, I have signed on to an amendment that is included in the current state operating budget that would guarantee every school district a minimum funding level that is significantly higher than the funding most of our local districts are receiving.

2. Redistricting: I supported, and voted for Concurrent Resolution that became the Issue 1 referendum a few years ago that provided for an Ohio constitutional amendment that provided for the current redistricting protocols that will be utilized in drawing the new district maps in 2022.

As State Representatives, we are sworn to support the constitution of the United States of America and the State of Ohio. With this said, it is incumbent upon us to support our oath and provide the oversight required to ensure that the provisions contained in the Ohio Constitution, the Issue 1 provisions, are complied with by engaging in and providing input, guidance and review of the recommendations of the reapportionment process.

I fully expect that the provisions in the Ohio Constitution will be adhered to.



MONIQUE T. SMITH (D)

Age: 44

Education: BA, Political Science - The Ohio State University

Current Employer: Candidate for State Representative

Residence municipality: Fairview Park

Campaign Website: MoniqueSmithForStateRep.com

Campaign Phone: 216-956-8449

1. Education Funding: Ohio's school funding formula has been considered unconstitutional since an Ohio Supreme Court ruling in 1996 ordered state government to "enact a constitutional school-funding system." Our state's school funding formula still relies mainly on local property taxes, which continues to create an unconstitutional and unacceptable per-student funding gap. The proposed Cupp-Patterson bill is an improvement I'd support, as it attempts to address some of this. But it still allows almost all of the nearly \$2,000 gap between the best-funded schools and the lowest-funded schools in the state to persist, which is unacceptable. We must devote more of the state budget toward direct funding of public schools. Every school district should receive adequate and equitable educational resources based on the needs of the student population, the goals set by the state, and the amount of local funding that can be provided to help meet those needs. Ohio's EdChoice voucher program undermines these goals.

2. Redistricting: As the ACLU points out on their blog, "The answer to partisan gerrymandering... is to create districts that reflect and respond to voters' choices. There are clear, neutral ways to do that." Thanks Ohio's law promoting fair districts, which was championed by League of Women Voters and passed in 2018, Ohio established new procedures and standards which promote bipartisan collaboration. Our legislature must ensure that these standards are utilized and not undermined while drawing new congressional and state legislative district boundaries. Between now and January 2021, when the new law goes into effect, Ohio legislators have an opportunity to support the spirit and letter of the law by not proposing other legislation or policies as an obstruction. Under the new law, our legislature must adopt a 10-year congressional redistricting plan with 60 percent of members in each chamber voting in favor, including half of the members of each party. I will support fair districting at the statehouse.

OHIO SENATE, DISTRICT 24

Ohio Senate District 24 is in the shape of a smile around the county's outer-ring suburbs. It comprises 28 communities including House Districts 6, 7, and 16. Senators serve 4-year terms.



MATT DOLAN (R)

Age: 55

Education: Gilmour Academy, Boston College, Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Current Employer: The State of Ohio

Residence municipality: Chagrin Falls

Campaign Website: ElectMattDolan.com

Facebook: [electmattdolan](https://www.facebook.com/electmattdolan)

1. Education Funding: Specifically, I will work to pass the fair funding amendment that guarantees every public school receives as a minimum from the State, the same amount private and parochial schools receive in auxiliary funding. I support most vouchers be income-based and paid for by the State.

2. Redistricting: I supported SJR 5 which creates the new transparent bipartisan plan to draw districts. I won't vote for any plan that does not follow the new requirements.



TOM JACKSON (D)

Age: 56

Education: State University of New York, Oswego

Current Employer: Levery Insurance Group

Residence municipality: Solon

Campaign Website: TomJacksonForOhio.com

Facebook: [tomforohio](https://www.facebook.com/tomforohio)

1. Education Funding: We need to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a quality K-12 education no matter their zip code, socioeconomic status, or race. A state's tax code should reflect its priorities. Continuing to create tax loopholes and breaks for certain groups leaves fewer resources to fund the programs that matter most, landing Ohio in the bottom half of states in education. In 2019, the district 24 state senator used his leadership position to strip millions of dollars from Orange City Schools to benefit a small group of property owners, not solving the problem for the rest of Ohioans. Addressing the over-reliance on property taxes one community at a time is not how we fix public school funding. House Bill (HB) 305 seeks to overhaul the funding formula with input from many groups. I support the efforts to refine HB305 to end the unconstitutional funding of K-12 schools. The current system pits public schools against private schools for funding and with unequal accountability.

2. Redistricting: The voters in Ohio passed an issue on the 2018 ballot to put an end to gerrymandered districts. The Ohio Constitution now includes Amendment XI outlining the bipartisan redistricting process. The legislature will still hold control over approval of the map following the 2020 census. The new rules require 50 percent support from members of each of the two major political parties. If that fails, the work will be turned over to a seven-member commission of statewide elected officials and appointees from the legislature. But the commission cannot approve a new map without at least two votes from each party. If that fails, the legislature could approve a new map without any minority support, but that new map would be good for only four years - instead of ten - and added requirements like compact districts and limits on county splits would be imposed. I support this process and will identify commission candidates who represent the intent of voters and ensure the added requirements are met.

This Voter Guide is published as a service to voters by the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, Bay Village Chapter in partnership with the Westlake | Bay Village Observer. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Learn more: www.LWVGreaterCleveland.org.

Questions were selected by the League of Women Voters and candidates were given 1,000-character limits. Candidates' responses are printed verbatim.

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