Candidate Guide for Hamilton County
Fall 2018 Election

This election season, join the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council in rallying for healthy, sustainable, equitable food systems. We encourage you to use this guide to ask candidates how they will work to address issues in our communities. Questions can be asked during public candidate forums, through social media, and by calling and emailing the candidates' campaign teams. You can find out who your candidates are at Vote411.org and use the county election website and candidates webpages to find their contact info.

Thank you for participating in the democratic process with us!

Candidate Questions

Question: Diet-related chronic disease is a crisis that affects people across all demographics. Many of our neighbors - kids and adults - suffer from poor nutrition. What policies will you change or stand behind to help improve these conditions?

Question: As grocery stores leave our inner-city neighborhoods, they also leave thousands of people without convenient access to nutritious foods. What are some strategies you envision will help solve this issue?

Question: Over 1.5 million Ohioans rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) benefits to ensure there is food on the table. Nearly 700,000 of them are children. Do you plan to support and enhance federal funding for SNAP?

Question: While recent data shows that the country's job crisis is abating, workers continue to earn smaller and smaller shares of the output they generate. Recent numbers released from the American Communities Survey showed that poverty has actually increased in Cincinnati. Poverty contributes to individuals' inability to access the food and healthcare they need. What innovative solutions to reduce wealth inequality will you work to enact?

Question: Ohio’s school food service programs serve over 1 million meals daily at over 4,000 sites. When the product for these meals is purchased from Ohio specialty crop farmers, children get healthier meals while local farmers have secure, home grown markets for their products. What policies will you institute to help schools serve nutritious, local meals?

Question: Promoting soil health practices holds tremendous promise to restore agricultural land, increase crop yields, enhance climate resilience, and remove carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon-rich soils require less fertilizer, reduce runoff, mitigate flood damage, and result in healthier crops. Will you support significantly increased funding for soil health programs and the creation of state soil health programs to complement Federal programs?
WE RISE

Communicating with candidates running for public office can feel intimidating. There are so many forms of communication, it is difficult to know what is best. The answer is almost always whichever form of communication feels most comfortable to you.

Whatever form of communication(s) you choose, be sure to let them know who you are and that you are planning to vote. Then, tell them about what food and health-related issue is most important to you. Still wondering how to reach out? Remember the acronym, WE RISE – it will help you figure out what to do.

Write.
Write a postcard or letter to send to the candidate and their team (staffers could be your new best friends).

Events.
Attend candidate nights and other events where they will be answering questions. Make sure to come prepared with your questions and be ready to jump when the opportunity to ask a question arises. Remember: it is best to be heard first and often. If your question is ignored, keep trying!

Research.
Research information about the candidates. Knowing their background and what they stand for can help you frame questions in a more effective manner.

In-person.
If you miss public events but want to talk in person, try to schedule a meeting. It may help if you organize a group of voters in your district and schedule a meeting together.

Social Media.
We now all know that Twitter can be used as a microphone. Because of that, social media can be the most direct and efficient way to connect with candidates. Tag them on Twitter or Facebook. Their profiles should note if it is the candidate themselves responding or a representative for them.

Echo Effect.
Your voice matters, but sometimes individual voices are less effective than a collective voice. Organize with your friends and neighbors to use the echo effect. If one of you asks a question that is not answered, another can echo the question. Eventually, it will be noticed.
Candidate Overview
Finding your candidates’ schedules can be difficult! Check out your candidates’ website and Facebook pages for their latest news, or call their office if necessary. Other helpful resources are:

- Hamilton County Board of Elections
- Hamilton County Democratic Party
- Hamilton County Republican Party

Confirm these are your candidates by entering your address at Vote411.org

**Governor/Lieutenant Governor**
- Rep. Mike Dewine/Jon Husted
- Dem. Richard Cordray/Betty Sutton
- Lib. Travis Irvine/Todd Grayson
- Green Constance Gadell-Newton/Dr. Brett R. Joseph

**US Senate**
- Dem. Sherrod Brown
- Rep. Jim Renacci

**US House of Representatives**

- **1st Congressional District**
  - Dem. Aftab Puraval
  - Rep. Steve Chabot
  - Lib. Dirk Kubala

- **2nd Congressional district**
  - Rep. Brad Wenstrup
  - Green James Condit
  - Dem. Jill Schiller

- **Ohio Senate**

- **7th Senate District**
  - Dem. Sara Bitter
  - Rep. Steve Wilson

- **9th Senate District**
  - Dem. Cecil Thomas
  - Rep. Tom Chandler

- **27th house District 27**
  - Dem. Christine Fisher
  - Rep. Tom Brinkman

- **28th House District**
  - Dem. Jessica E. Miranda

- **29th House District**
  - Rep. Louis W. Blessing
  - Dem. Carrie R. Davis

- **30th House District**
  - Rep. William J. Seitz
  - Dem. Clayton Adams

- **31st House District**
  - Dem. Brigid Kelly

- **32nd House District**
  - Rep. Marilyn Tunnat
  - Dem. Catherine Ingram

- **33rd House District**
  - Dem. Sedrick Denson
  - Rep. Judith Boyce

**County Commissioner**
- Stephanie Summerow Dumas
- Chris Monzel