

## The Columbus Dispatch Voters Guide

### Age

48

### Education

BA, The Ohio State University; JD, Saint Louis University

### Experience

President, Ohio Women's Bar Association; Board Member, Columbus Children's Theater; Woman of the Year, National Industry Publication

### Family

Two children, Allison and Adam.

### Campaign email

[jennifer@jenniferrhoads.com](mailto:jennifer@jenniferrhoads.com)

### Facebook

<http://fb.me/RhoadsForCouncil>

### Twitter

@RhoadsForCouncil

### **There are 13 candidates running for city council. Why are you the best-qualified candidate?**

I understand the frustration residents have with council. Our council isn't listening. My campaign is about putting residents' first, rather than developers. I offer clear positions on the issues. I support the many residents who want to see office and park development, but not apartment construction, at UMCH. We added hundreds of apartments in the past several years on Wilson Bridge and Route 161. Yet they generate little or no income tax revenue. I represent the parents concerned about overcrowding in our schools who do not want their neighborhood redistricted, which the superintendent said would be a near certainty if council approves rezoning UMCH. I will address other problems council has ignored. I support Worthington Pool's proposed renovation. And I support our police department cracking down a rash of criminal activity in our neighborhoods and at local businesses. We need new leadership in Worthington.

### **What is the greatest challenge/need facing Worthington and, if elected, how would you address it?**

We have a lack of decision making by council today. Eight years ago, UMCH became available for development. But our city council can't make a decision, even though residents have been clear about their position (yes to office, yes to parks, no to apartments). Nearly four years have passed since Worthington Pools announced its need to renovate so it could remain financially viable, but city council convened no meetings to address the problem. Now, having sat on their hands, \$1 million in state funding is in jeopardy. Residents are talking about city leaders who are getting arrested. Residents are talking about overcrowding in schools. How is this acceptable? We need new leadership in Worthington.

### **If elected, which city services/departments would you like to see expanded or changed and why?**

Revenue growth should be a priority for Worthington, yet not all development is created equal. It is widely accepted in economic development circles that offices generate income tax, while apartments do not. The more offices we can develop along Wilson Bridge, High Street and Huntley Road, the better our revenue will be. And, with stronger revenue, the city should invest in the basics that residents expect: a modern, clean and safe outdoor pool that is financially viable to last another 50 years, upgraded shelter houses in neighborhoods like

Colonial Hills, maintaining our existing playgrounds, etc. The city should review its current staff in the wake of several expensive blunders such as a \$1.3 million repair of the community center roof, \$300,000 window repair and other surprise expenses that were the result of poor workmanship and oversight. The city needs to fix its oldest facilities before taking on new projects such as a \$3 million upgrade at McCord Park.

**What else would you like to say to voters?**

It seems to me there are two side running for council this year. Real estate developers and their friends/associates are funding at least two candidates for council. And on the other side is a slate of three candidates opposing that group. I am not part of either of those groups, but my positions are clear. I am going to put residents first. This means we should encourage office development at UMCH, and possibly a park area, but not several hundred apartments. It just doesn't make economic sense for anyone except the developers. And it isn't zoned for apartments today. It is zoned for parks and schools. You don't have to take my word on the revenue issue. You can research how city income tax works. It does not generally apply to residents in apartments or houses. We get zero income tax from that, yet revenue from income tax is 73% of our city budget. We need a city council who actually understands how tax revenue is generated. We need new leadership for Worthington.