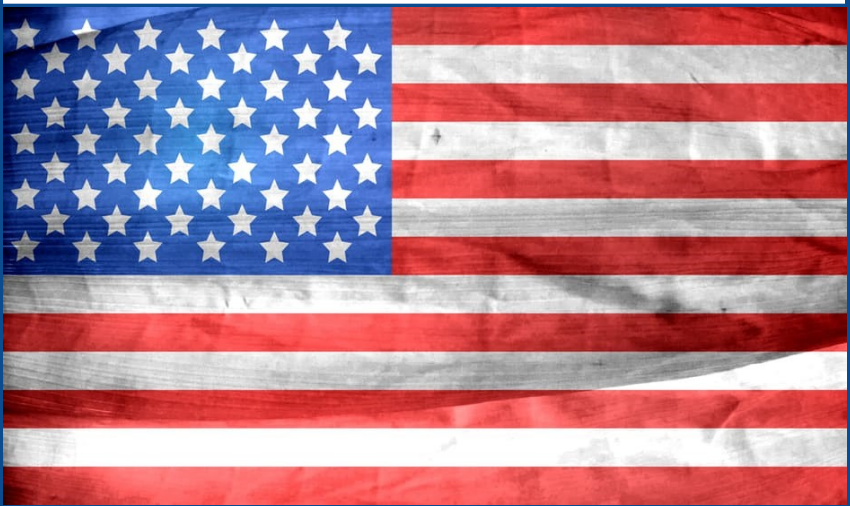


THE WESTERVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

# 2021 CANDIDATE FORUMS



## CITY COUNCIL

*Westerville Public Library September 20*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Westerville North High School October 4*



**WESTERVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

99 COMMERCE PARK DR. SUITE A

(614) 882-8917 | [WESTERVILLECHAMBER.COM](http://WESTERVILLECHAMBER.COM)



/WACHamber



@WACHamber



Join the Group!

# WELCOME



On behalf of the Board of the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce and our Business Advocacy Council, welcome to the **2021 Meet the Candidates Forum!**

The focus behind the two candidate forums is to help you better understand the civic leaders who are running for City Council and the Board of Education offices on November 2. By being here, you're taking the first step as an informed voter to learn about the candidates who will directly effect the vision and direction of our community and/or our school district for years to come.

This longstanding Chamber tradition provides an intimate forum for both Chamber Members and community residents to convene and engage with Westerville's future leadership. It's this type of collaboration and community spirit that the Westerville Area Chamber seeks to foster in its events, and we thank you for your interest and taking part and being informed for this important election for our Westerville community. Remember every vote counts. Thank you in advance for exercising your right to vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Tressler-Davis".

**Janet Tressler-Davis**  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dina Shultz".

**Dina Shultz**  
Chair of the Board

# AGENDA



**6:30 PM**                      **REGISTRATION OPENS**

**6:45 PM**                      **WELCOME**

Janet Tressler-Davis, President & CEO,  
Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce

**MEET THE CANDIDATES**

City Council:

Tonisha Johnson, Reporter, Spectrum News 1 Ohio

Board of Education:

Dr. John Comerford, President, Otterbein University

**7:00 PM**                      **CANDIDATE Q&A**

**8:35 PM**                      **CANDIDATE CLOSING STATEMENTS**

**8:50 PM**                      **REMARKS**

Jeff Akers, Chair, Business Advocacy Council

**9:00 PM**                      **SESSION CLOSE**

# MODERATORS



**TONISHA JOHNSON**

**Journalist, Spectrum News 1 Ohio**

Tonisha Johnson is an Emmy Award-Winning Multimedia Journalist for Spectrum News 1 Ohio, covering politics and education across the state.

Whether it's in the classroom or the statehouse, she delves into legislation and shares the stories of those impacted in rural, urban and suburban communities. She also shines a light on teachers, students, districts and legislators making their mark in education.

Since being a part of the Spectrum News 1 team, she's produced and hosted virtual education town halls in addition to the documentary *Glass Walls: Black Experiences in Higher Education*. The documentary addresses students and their experiences with systemic racism. Currently, she serves as the co-chair for the station's Local Fairness Group, which brings employees together to address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion within the newsroom and in relationship to the content that goes on air.

Johnson is a native of Springfield, Illinois, and earned a degree in Mass Communications (minoring in Spanish) from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She also holds a Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary.

Before joining Spectrum News 1, Tonisha was a reporter for WTVI (PBS) in Charlotte, and WRCB-TV, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

When she is not covering news, she enjoys traveling with her family, designing clothes, and mentoring youth and young adults. You can also find her connecting with others locally and internationally on mission trips.

# MODERATORS



**JOHN COMERFORD, Ph. D., President  
Otterbein University**

Dr. John Comerford joined Otterbein University as the president in 2018 with a record of commitment and advocacy for higher education and liberal arts colleges.

Believing that higher education is the “great equalizer,” he has focused on access and affordability. He helped established a scholarship that covers full tuition for Ohio students from families of financial need. The Dual Admission Program, a partnership with Columbus State Community College, provides one of the most affordable degree programs in the state of Ohio. Now enrolling the most diverse classes in University history, Otterbein’s first-year class has grown from 12% to 27% students of color.

To build the student pipeline and workforce of the future, the university is partnering with area companies, Columbus State Community College and Columbus City Schools. His work in creating the Otterbein Advantage Partnership provides expanded experiential learning and internship opportunities for students and brings industry experts into Otterbein classrooms and labs while also providing partnering company employees, their spouses/partners, and dependent children a scholarship that makes a private university education available for the cost of a public university.

The native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, Comerford completed his doctorate degree in higher education administration with an emphasis in law at the University of Kansas. He also holds a master’s degree in college student personnel administration from the University of Central Missouri and a bachelor’s degree in political science from Western Illinois University. He has conducted research in areas from higher education law to college student culture.

# CANDIDATES: CITY COUNCIL



## DENNIS BLAIR

From having my own business *here*, raising 3 children *here*, and being involved *here* throughout the community I have shown how “**Blair Cares** about Westerville!” With over a decade of service to the Westerville community I’m very proud of my work to make Westerville better. I’m an active volunteer (Volunteer of the Year), leader (Field of

Heroes, URB, Community Plan, Uptown Westerville, WEC, and more) and active in the business community as well as the schools. The best reference I can get would be from someone you know/trust who is active in the community – just ask them about me!

**Website:** [blairforcouncil.com](http://blairforcouncil.com)

**FaceBook:** Blair for Westerville

**Instagram:** blairforcouncil

**Linkedin:** Dennis A. Blair



## DR. COUTANYA COOMBS

Dr. Coutanya Coombs earned her PhD from Walden University in Public Policy and Administration and specializes in Nonprofit Management and Leadership. She obtained a Master of Science from Eastern Illinois University in Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from North Carolina Central University. Dr. Coombs is an active member of the Westerville Sunrise Rotary, the

Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce’s Women In Business, and the Business Inclusion Opportunities Council for which she is co-chair. She serves on the Westerville Education Foundation Board and does mission work in Haiti and South Africa.

**Website:** [coombs4westerville.com](http://coombs4westerville.com)

# CANDIDATES: CITY COUNCIL



## **MARK FAUBEL**

I am a church member, family man, homeowner, and business owner all in Westerville. I am purposely anchored here and motivated to see Westerville flourish. My experience serving as a trustee for the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce, The

Westerville Education Foundation, The Westerville Symphony, and chairing committees for many local events over the years demonstrates my desire to contribute my time and talents to benefit our city. A vote for me shows that you reject political agendas and states that you simply want safety, service, and maintenance from local government.

**Website:** [FaubelForWesterville.com](https://FaubelForWesterville.com)



## **MICHAEL HEYECK**

Michael Heyeck brings EXPERIENCE serving as your Councilman since 1993 and volunteering on numerous City Boards since 1986. Westerville, on his watch, enjoyed over \$250 million of investment in roads, parks, trails, Uptown, and more. Continue this COMMON SENSE approach to invest in our Westerville fueled by Economic Development, and continue

SUPPORT for our Police and All First Responders. We accomplished a Safe, Family-Friendly, "City Within a Park," and we have a 90% Citizen Satisfaction Rating to show for it. LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

**Email:** [vote@mikeheyeck.com](mailto:vote@mikeheyeck.com)

**Website:** [MikeHeyeck.com](https://MikeHeyeck.com),

**FaceBook:** Mike Heyeck for Westerville City Council (Self-funding so no donations needed).

# CANDIDATES: CITY COUNCIL



## **JEAN GEBERT POWELL**

I am not a politician, I am a wife, mother, entrepreneur, and lifelong Westerville resident. I am endorsed by the FOP. I am running for City Council because I am concerned with the direction our society is headed. Sound principles are the key to ensuring Westerville's continued success, not radical ideology, the rewriting of history, or passing trends. A vote for me is a vote for reinforcing Westerville's reputation as a city where good people combine the best of old and new ideas to result in an awesome place to live, work, and raise the next generation!

**Email:** [jeanpowell@zoho.com](mailto:jeanpowell@zoho.com)

**Website:** [Electjeanpowell.com](http://Electjeanpowell.com)



## **DOUG RANKIN**

Doug Rankin comes with over 31 years of dual careers as a Civilian Resource Manager with the Department of Defense and as a Senior Intelligence Officer with Top Secret and above clearances within various agencies. He is the recipient of the Killian Award, the most significant mission accomplishment, for Corporate and

strategic Analysis. His platform addresses critical issues to support Westerville, which includes our families, police, fire and first responders. As well as supporting local businesses and free enterprise.

He holds a degree in Economics from Albright College, and M.S. in Business from Bucknell University, Advanced Resource Management from Syracuse University.



# CANDIDATES: CITY COUNCIL



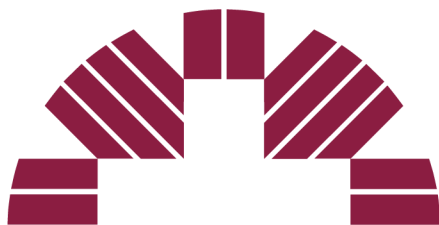
## MEGAN REAMSNYDER

Megan Czako Reamsnyder is a lifelong Westerville resident with two young children in Westerville City Schools. She currently sits on the board of Uptown Westerville, Inc and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. During the pandemic she co-founded a donor-advised fund with fellow Westerville North Alumni, with the goal of uplifting communities and individuals. Through her service within Westerville

and roles on the Charter Review Commission, Citizen's Police Academy, and various volunteer positions, Megan sees the need for younger generations to remain involved in the community as it grows and diversifies.

You can find Megan on **Facebook & Instagram** at MeganForWesterville  
**Website:** [MeganReamsnyder.com](https://MeganReamsnyder.com)

THANK YOU TO TONIGHT'S SPONSOR:



# MOUNT CARMEL

# CANDIDATES: BOARD OF EDUCATION

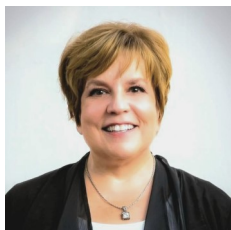


## **TRACY DAVIDSON**

Tracy Davidson has lived in Westerville for over thirty years and has always been a passionate advocate for public education and the welfare of children and families. She and her husband, Mark, are the proud parents of three children - two graduates of Westerville City Schools and one attending a Westerville high school.

Tracy is the Manager of Internal Operations at Nichols & Company, operates her own small business, and is active in a number of community organizations.

**Website:** [davidsonforkids.com](http://davidsonforkids.com)



## **NANCY NESTOR-BAKER**

With twenty-two years on the Board of Education and an extensive background in educational and community leadership, Nancy focuses on academic excellence, community pride, and fiscal responsibility. Her record of strengthening our schools and protecting our investment comes from a belief in

balancing forward-looking change and honored traditions. She knows a successful school system translates into successful graduates and a strong community. Nancy says, "our school district needs board members who know how to lead in tough times as well as good, see our educators and community as a team, and are committed to Westerville and public education."

**Website:** [nancynestorbaker.com](http://nancynestorbaker.com) **Instagram:** nancyforwestervilleschools  
**Facebook:** Nancy Nestor-Baker for Westerville Schools

# CANDIDATES: BOARD OF EDUCATION



## KRISTY MEYER

I am a lifelong resident that is raising two kids in Westerville with my husband. As a mother and advocate, my priority is to center the whole child's needs both at home and in the classroom. This means creating a safe and inclusive environment where children's social-emotional, physical, and intellectual needs, and safety are prioritized regardless of race, gender, or religion. My priorities for our children:

Creating a safe and inclusive environment for our children to learn and explore. Social-emotional intelligence programming to set children up to succeed in school and in-life. Additional support for teachers and counselors to meet the needs of all children. Ensuring every dollar is spent effectively and intentionally.

**Facebook:** Meyer4OurFuture    **Email:** Meyer4OurFuture@gmail.com



## RICK VILARDO

As a member of the Board of Education, I will continue to bring fresh and innovative ideas to the district, focusing on **INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES** and **REMOVING OBSTACLES**.

My priorities: **Providing every student** with educational opportunities and social-emotional support, to help them achieve their highest potential. **Supporting our teachers and staff** with the tools and training necessary to help them thrive, as they serve our students. Ensuring that the **Westerville community's financial support is spent wisely** in the pursuit of educational excellence.

**Twitter:** rickvilardo

**Facebook:** Vilardo for Schools

# UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

- October 4:**      **Board of Education Candidate Forum**  
Hosted at Westerville North High School  
6:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- October 20:**    **Women In Business Luncheon**  
**She-E-O Panel Discussion**  
Hosted at The Lakes Golf and Country Club  
11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- October 21:**    **Business After Hours**  
Hosted at Heartland Bank  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- November 19:** **Evening of Elegance - Roaring Twenties**  
Hosted at Renaissance Hotel  
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
FOR CHAMBER AWARDS THROUGH NOV. 27:**

- Business Person of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year
- Veteran Champion of the Year
- Business of the Year (1-49 Employees)

# BUSINESS ADVOCACY COUNCIL

The Business Advocacy Council of the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to reviewing, developing, and supporting issues and candidates that promote a positive, pro-active business environment. The Chamber believes that candidates, laws, and regulations should serve the public without acting as a detriment to business development and growth.

The issues examined through our Business Advocacy agenda are issues raised by the Chamber membership through survey results or the Chamber Board of Trustees. We also respond to issues and/or concerns raised by members.

Our purpose is to work with our elected officials to ensure regulations and policies will positively affect the ability of a business to compete in the worldwide economy and continue to generate income and jobs that will further strengthen the positive business climate for area businesses to thrive and compete.

The Business Advocacy Council is also proud to share that eight of this year's candidates are graduates of our Election Academy. If you are interested in running for office or learning more about running for office, contact us for information!

# SPECIAL THANKS

## HOSTS FOR THIS YEAR'S FORUM



Westerville  
Public Library



**Thank you to Franklin DJ and Event Services and Westerville  
Florist for providing their services**



**Livestreams of today's program courtesy of Edge Technology**

# OUR CITY AND SCHOOLS



The seven members of Westerville City Council represent the residents of the City and are the only elected officials, according to the City Charter.

As Westerville's legislative body, City Council sets policy, establishes goals and approves and oversees the City's annual budget. The City Manager manages the day-to-day Westerville operations and reports to City Council. Westerville's phenomenal residential and corporate growth has been comfortably balanced within this form of government.

**This year City Council has seven candidates running for four open seats.**

## WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Westerville City Schools Board of Education endeavors to provide all students maximum educational opportunities within the constraints of available facilities, financial resources, legal requirements and citizen involvement. It is the Board's responsibility to encourage the development of each student's ability to contribute in a democratic free enterprise and technological society.

**This year the Board of Education has four candidates running for three open seats.**



SAVE THE DATE

THE  
**ROARING  
TWENTIES**

November 19, 2021

6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Renaissance Westerville  
Hotel

**RSVP BY NOVEMBER 12**

Head to [westervillechamber.com](http://westervillechamber.com) for more information

**Robin Enterprises Co.**

Thank you to Robin Enterprises for printing today's program