

2009 Licking County Candidates Questionnaire



2009

GENERAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

City of Heath

Mayor: Richard Waugh Mark Johns
City Council: **1st Ward** - Brad Beck Brian Johnson
2nd Ward - Richard Marrow
3rd Ward - Jeffrey Crabill Doug Heffle

S = SUPPORT **O = OPPOSE** **U = UNDECIDED**
I = INCREASE **D = DECREASE** **N = NO CHANGE**

Q1. Increasing municipal income taxes to fund local government services

Johns: O

Waugh: O The City of Heath municipal income tax is currently 1 ½% with a 1 ¼% credit. I have balanced the budget in the last 2 years and will again in 2010 without increasing income taxes.

Beck: U It is not a good time to ask for additional monies from the citizens. Personally, I don't want to pay any more until I am better situated to afford it. The current administration has not demonstrated that new monies are needed just yet. They have not done enough to trim the fat or non-vital city services.

Johnson: O We do not need to burden the taxpayer with any more taxes. The City of Heath has managed to operate within their budget. The answer to funding more local government services is economic development.

Morrow: O

Crabill: O This Council & Administration has balanced previous budgets without raising income taxes. I am committed to conservative fiscal management and "living within our means".

Heffley: O

Q2. Increasing property taxes to fund local government services

Johns: O

Waugh: O Heath receives approximately 10% of the property tax collected from our residents by the County for 2 fire levies. I have no intention to seek a property tax increase. Heath City Schools receives approximately 80-85% of property taxes.

Beck: U Again it is not a good time to ask for taxes of the property owners to fund city services. It is my opinion that the citizens are asking the council to be accountable for the monies they currently have and use them to fund the vital city services. If additional funds are asked for the benefactors of the services you are going to provide need to pay the way for the improvements and services.

Johnson: O Again, we do not need to burden the taxpayer with any more taxes. The answer is economic development.

Morrow: O

Crabill: O There are presently two fire levies being collected from property owners. In this present economic environment, I can't imagine asking voters to increase their property tax liability further.

Heffley: O A great number of people in Heath are on fixed incomes. I don't believe we should raise their taxes.

Q3. Tax abatements to help attract new business to Licking County localities

Johns: S

Waugh: S As Mayor, I support tax abatements for Industrial growth. Heath has a pre-1984 Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) near the Port Authority. This provides for a 100%, 15 year tax abatement for potential development. Tax abatements outside this area must be negotiated with the school system. I would favor most tax abatement requests.

Beck: S Tax Abatements can attract new business but I am not in favor of giving away the farm as some have done. They still benefit from services that you are giving and any additional burden on services must be methodically thought out.

Johnson: S Absolutely, economic development, Licking County is centrally located within the state with outstanding industry already calling it home, the County and other municipalities within our county need to allow for tax abatements to attract industry, there's a lot of competition out there. As for the City of Heath we have an incredible infrastructure that is fortunately close to Interstate 70 and Route 16, with over thirty thousand traveling through our city daily. The city of Heath in 1984 created the CRA, (Community Reinvestment Area), near the Heath Newark Licking County Port Authority and James Parkway, which allows for a fifteen year, one-hundred percent tax abatement.

Morrow: S

Crabill: S I generally support tax abatements for industrial job growth. Heath has one CRA area along the eastern boundary of Thornwood Dr., which is a 100% 15 year abatement area. Other areas would also be subject to school district approval.

Heffley: S Only if the abatement helps to create new jobs for the City of Heath.

Q4. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to help pay for new development

Johns: S Also, as mayor, I will work to create an economic development fund for Heath. This fund would work to provide low-interest loans to businesses looking to locate in Heath, or to existing businesses in Heath that are looking to expand their operations.

Waugh: S Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is used to finance infrastructure in commercial developments. Heath reached a TIF agreement for the 300 acre VanVoorhis property behind Wal Mart. I favored those plans but the deal never materialized. Development plans must be committed prior to enacting a TIF agreement. TIF's can be a good tool to utilize.

Beck: U I know just a little about TIF's and if they are proposed I would educate myself on all the what if's, to be as informed and knowledgeable as I can be on the matter being discussed.

Johnson: S Economic Development, anyone that doesn't understand a TIF may oppose but if they took the time to get the details on how a TIF works they should then understand that TIF's are a win win for everybody!

Morrow: U

Crabill: S We have had previous plans for a TIF for the 300 acres behind Walmart and Target on the drawing board, but the development never finalized.

Heffley: O The only way I would support this is if it could create jobs and help business. In Heath, not line the pockets of individuals.

Q5. Utilizing the traffic cameras currently in place to reduce speed and increase safety

Johns: U The lack of communication with Heath residents and businesses prior to the deployment of the cameras was a terrible mistake by my opponent. But with cameras now in operation, it is important to review accumulated traffic and accident data over time before making a final determination on the program.

Waugh: S Traffic cameras have been a very effective tool for the Heath Police Dept. for reducing speed and increasing safety. In just 6 weeks, speed violations were reduced 75%. Short term numbers indicate a reduction in crashes. Time will confirm this data. I support the use of traffic camera technology.

Beck: S I have worked in Public Safety for 33 years. I have had to pull injured and deceased victims out of wrecked automobiles. I believe as an emergency responder and training officer the cameras have succeeded in reducing the speed, accidents and probabilities of accidents that could injure or kill someone.

Johnson: S I'm not a fan of Big Government, and when I first heard of their coming installation I was on the fence and felt Big Government looming. I travel Route 79 numerous times daily and I have to say that I'm pleased on how nice it is to travel after the installa-

tion of the cameras. If you travel at the posted speed limit, traffic with flow without major gridlock, the lights are timed to allow for such. I have also kept up on the statistics since the cameras have been in place, the speed violations are down seventy five percent and the red light violations are down twenty seven percent. I'm currently working on acquiring statistics on accidents. Therefore YES, I feel the cameras were a good idea.

Morrow: S Originally voted for it and still support it.

Crabill: S I support the implementation of these cameras for safety reasons. Despite the criticism by some, the results of a much lower average motorist speed and much more cautious driving is undeniable. This allows our very busy police department to focus more on serious felonious criminal activity in our city.

Heffley: I am in favor of reduced speed and increased safety. I am opposed to the Mayor and City Council's lack of research and community involvement.

Q6. Agree with the current fine of \$100 per ticket generated by the traffic cameras

Johns: O Headlines across the region like "\$1 Million In First Month" have had a negative impact on Heath's businesses. Prior to the violations being sent out, I predicted this would happen and proposed the fine to be reduced to \$50. Unfortunately, that idea was rejected by my opponent.

Waugh: S The current fine for a speed or red light violation is appropriate. Officer issued speed violations of 46 mph in a 35 mph zone, would be \$138 plus 2 points on your driver's license and potentially raising your automobile insurance. Heath's violation is a civil penalty, NOT subject to driver's license points.

Beck: S The \$100 is not excessive. The speed limit is 35, but the cameras do not take a picture of your vehicle until it violates the law at 10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. It has been put to the voters of Heath to make the final decision on the cameras if they stay or go.

Johnson: S I feel it's reasonable, if one disagrees don't move to Victorville, California where camera violations are costing \$391.00 each.

Morrow: S

Crabill: S Agree with current fine of \$100 per ticket generated by the traffic cameras. This amount is approximately \$40.00 less than if a uniformed police officer issued a citation, along with two points on your license, and possible increase in auto insurance costs.

Heffley: O I feel that the fine should be lower.

Q7. In your opinion, what should the additional money generated by the traffic cameras be used for?

Johns: By the program's nature, the money generated will be inconsistent. Some revenue should help provide the police and fire departments equipment they need to do their jobs and protect our residents. Also, I would propose that part of the money go toward building an economic development fund for Heath.

Waugh: As Mayor, I put \$100,000 in the 2009 Heath budget for expected revenue from photo enforcement cameras. My recommendation to Council is three fold, leave \$100,000 in the general fund as anticipated, use \$100,000 to improve safety along the Rt. 79 and 30th St. corridors and put the balance in a fund to reduce long term debt.

Beck: The money should be earmarked to make our streets safer by allocating at least 35% to the street department for resurfacing the streets, new improved signage and traffic lights. Another 35% to purchase new equipment like replacement police cruisers and other updated equipment for the Police Department. Since the Fire Department responds to accidents and other emergencies on St. Rt. 79 they should also benefit with another large percentage (30%) of the revenue generated to assist in the purchase of new equipment and keeping EMS supplies updated.

Johnson: Pay down debt service.

Morrow: I would support money to police force and some to the general fund.

Crabill: The first \$100,000 was budgeted for the 2009 general fund to balance the budget. 2 – Reduce existing City debt presently on the books and 3 – Safety and street improvements to be determined.

Heffley: The money should be allocated on a case by case basis to improve infrastructure in the City of Heath.

Q8. Please outline how you would propose to balance the City's budget. If proposing cuts, please be specific.

Johns: Heath residents expect their city government to use their tax dollars wisely to provide basic services. As mayor, I will review the entire budget and re-prioritize where our tax dollars are being spent to ensure those services are being provided in an efficient manner.

Waugh: I have balanced Heath's budget in 2008 & 2009. I will present Council with a balanced 2010 budget in November. Minor cuts may be necessary in part time personnel and some equipment purchases may be postponed. Overtime budgets will need to be monitored closely.

Beck: The basic services of the city that the citizens use daily must be the main focus of expenses until the economy lets us fund improvements and expansion of any type. These are fire/EMS services, police services, streets, water and sewer. All other city services must be looked at for cuts.

Johnson: Although I certainly support a balanced budget I propose nothing to balance the City of Heath's budget since it already is.

Morrow: Our budget was balanced at the beginning of 2009. Continue careful spending.

Crabill: All previous budgets on my watch have balanced. I expect Mayor Waugh will present a balanced budget for 2010. Personnel costs account for 85% of our budget, and overtime and part-time/summer help may have to be adjusted downward in order to balance the 2010 budget.

Heffley: Without real hard facts and figures I can not give an informed answer to this hypothetical question.

Q9. What are your top three priorities for the City of Heath?

Johns: Economic development is critical to Heath’s financial future. I will work hard to help increase jobs in Heath. Our police and fire departments need to have their numbers increased to better serve us. Our tax dollars need to be better spent on services needed by all the residents.

Waugh: Succession planning, economic development and financial commitment to the future. Within 3 years, Heath could lose 5 department heads and several key personnel to retirement. Their Institutional knowledge will be difficult to replace. Enhance 500 acres for commercial/industrial development and allocate 12 ½% of income tax to the capital improvements fund by 2012.

Beck: The safety forces of the city seem to be at bear bones minimum to meet today’s demand on service. The economy and how to stay afloat and still provide vital essential services to Heath citizens is the top priority. Until the recession is over and we are on our way to recovery can we look at new growth? One of the most important things we can do is support the existing businesses and jobs in the City of Heath and Licking County to the best of our ability. We can’t afford to have jobs leaving this community.

Johnson: 1 – represent the voters in my ward. 2 – the City of Heath is facing an unstable economy, the same thing other Municipalities, States, Businesses and taxpayers are facing, so economic development is vital. 3 – We need to use all means including new technology to enhance what we have and live up to being the City of Progress.

Morrow: Infrastructure, public safety and utility upgrades.

Crabill: The biggest priority is economic development through retention and expansion of jobs in Heath. Secondly, the city has some key department heads and personnel with well over a hundred years of combined city experience due for retirement in a few years. A seamless management succession plan is critical for continued quality of city services. Finally, continued infrastructure improvements and an aggressive street repaving program are essential.

Heffley: Creation of jobs/stimulus of business; improved infrastructure and increasing safety forces - police and fire.

City of Newark

- Treasurer:** Jeff Hall (R) Cary Rader (D)
- City Council:**
 - 1st Ward** – Ed Houdeshell (D) Rachel Oktavec (R)
 - 2nd Ward** – Shirley Stare (D)
 - 3rd Ward** – Julie Ketner Barrett (D) Jeff Rath (R)
 - 4th Ward** – John Uible (R)
 - 5th Ward** – Don Ellington (R) Bob Ziegler (D)
 - 6th Ward** – Doug Marmie (R) Kelley O’Halloran (D)
 - 7th Ward** – Carol Floyd (D)
 - President** – Bruce Bain (D)

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Q1. Increasing municipal income taxes to fund local government services.

Hall: O Our citizens do not need to pay higher income taxes at this time.

Rader: DID NOT RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE

Houdeshell: DID NOT RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE

Oktavec: U I would have to research the area municipal taxes to see if we are in line.

Stare: O Now is not a good time with economy in such dire condition.

Barrett: O Taxpayers are already overburdened.

Rath: O I would strongly oppose any increase in municipal income taxes to fund additional government services.

Uible: O Opposed to any tax increase.

Ellington: O Our city can & will live within its means. Council must continue to find ways to do more with less.

Ziegler: DID NOT RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE

Marmie: DID NOT RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE

O’Halloran: DID NOT RETURN QUESTIONNAIRE

Floyd: O Many of our citizens can afford no more.

Bain: O Increased economic development is the key.

Q2. Increasing property taxes to fund local government services.

Hall: O Our citizens do not need to pay higher property taxes at this time.

Oktavec: U Property taxes cannot bear the brunt however the taxes in Newark should be more in line with like cities.

Stare: O Now is not a good time with economy in such dire condition.

Barrett: O Taxpayers are already overburdened.

Rath: O Again I would strongly oppose any increase in property taxes as well. I feel that the first priority of city government is to protect its citizens. With that, fire and police should be fully funded. The second priority of the city government is to provide a good infrastructure. After that, most every government service could be minimized if not cut all together.

Uible: O Opposed to tax increase.

Ellington: S

Floyd: O Our city can and will live within its means. Council must continue to find ways to do more with less.

Bain: O Increased economic development is the key.

Q3. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to help pay for new development.

Hall: U Need more specifics before deciding to spend future gains in taxes (not yet collected) to finance current improvements.

Oktavec: S

Stare: U Would need more discussion.

Barrett: S With agreement between all parties it can work well.

Rath: S I would support Tax Increment Financing.

Uible: S

Ellington: S

Floyd: S Some of these have been helpful in the past to attract new business.

Bain: S Part of broad economic development planning.

Q4. How would you prioritize the paving needs in the City?

Hall: Build long-term plan into the budget and initiate more preventative maintenance.

Oktavec: Main roads first and then those roads in need.

Stare: Street Department & Engineering Departments are good with making the priorities.

Barrett: City Engineer, Brian Morehead, is in charge of prioritizing which streets are paved and in what order.

Rath: I believe that you need to look at what is necessary first. Those roads most traveled, emergency routes, school routes, etc. should take first priority. Gateways to the city should also receive a high priority as well.

Uible: We should spend \$2 – 3 million per year for paving rather than \$1.4 million.

Ellington: Talk to the City Engineer. Main thoroughfares are important. Next by oldest and most needed! Alleys last with chip & seal.

Floyd: Paving ranks just below our safety forces. Many streets in my ward need attention.

Bain: High but under safety forces.

Q5. Please outline how you would propose to balance the City's budget. If proposing cuts, please be specific.

Hall: Run operations more efficiently – consider City Manager or Administrator form of government to add professional management.

Oktavec: See employment needs and maintenance level salaries maybe reduced or reorganize review where funds are needed.

Stare: Would have to analyze more fully.

Barrett: Grants can be an enormous help to the city. There are several individuals who are actively involved in grant writing. They should be encouraged and recognized for their efforts. Shopping the best prices for healthcare insurance could reduce expenses. Safety programs would be helpful to eliminate claims from workplace injuries.

Rath: I think that the first priority would be to correct any inefficiencies that currently exist within the city departments.

Uible: Cut expenses rather than raise revenue. Probably need to eliminate jobs.

Ellington: City can't continue to fund county Building Code Department. Reduce Fire Department overtime – negotiate 12 hr. shifts and part time employees in contract. Increase revenue by attracting new business to city.

Floyd: Hopefully each Department can cut to the basics. Our staff has already been cut so much.

Bain: Long range planning & cutting when warning signs arise always made innovative planning a priority – have supported reorganization of departments.

Q6. How can the City help in revitalizing the downtown area?

Hall: Focus on attracting businesses that support government and professional offices – downtown cannot compete with Easton, Polaris, etc.

Oktavec: Make downtown more pedestrian friendly. More restaurants with outside eating.

Stare: Revitalization has been in progress or discussed for many years. Tourist attractions – outside dining (Dela-ware is a good example).

Barrett: Heavily marketing the downtown area with its many unique features would be a plus. In my opinion the Sewer system is in need of replacement, further cave ins are inevitable and replacement would eliminate the unpleasant smells that emanate from the ancient sewer system and creep into businesses.

Rath: The best way to revitalize the downtown area is to provide tax incentives to businesses to encourage them to locate in the downtown area. Maintaining the roads as well as enforcing the property maintenance code will also make the downtown area a more attractive place to locate your business as well as visit and patronize.

Uible: Keep it clean, encourage convenient parking and attract new business.

Ellington: Help with a long term plan to get business and people back working and living downtown. Improve transit. Maybe get county employees from Price Rd. downtown.

Floyd: I love downtown Newark and would like the city with the help of the Planner to come up with ideas for the new entrance to downtown at 4th and Locust.

Bain: Restarting of the downtown program I implemented as Mayor.

Q7. Tax abatements to help attract new business to Licking County localities.

Hall: S Without tax abatements companies will be drawn to competing areas that offer tax abatements.

Oktavec: S

Stare: U may be a good idea.

Barrett: S They are a necessity for the city to remain competitive, especially in this slow economy.

Rath: S I would strongly support any tax incentives to motivate businesses to locate in Licking County and the City of Newark.

Uible: S

Ellington: S I'm for anything that attracts business that brings quality jobs to our area.

Floyd: U It would depend of the specific situation.

Bain: S We are in competition – we must offer the most effective packages to perspective business and industry.

Q8. Abolishing the Building Code Department.

Hall: S More efficiency be merging with the county as was done with the Health Department.

Oktavec: O We lose control of what goes where and how.

Stare: O Prefer to reorganize and keep a well run Department.

Barrett: O The city should make whatever cuts are necessary to keep the department. This economy will not last forever. The code department has paid for its self plus generated revenue in the past and will again as soon as the economy turns around.

Rath: U I am not sure if abolishing the Building Code Department is the answer but there is a problem there and the city has a fiscal responsibility to do something. I do not know that whatever is done with this department, we cannot go on without having our building codes inspected and enforced. It may be possible for the county to take on this responsibility but I am not sure if they can be up and running efficiently by the first of the year. It is possible to subcontract out the work of inspections to ensure that any building that does occur is completed safely and up to code.

Uible: U Provide a smooth transition for the county to provide this service.

Ellington: S We must live within our budget. 80% of the Code Department does work in the county not city limits. County needs to step up since our last 2 deficit years at Building Code.

Floyd: U I hate to see Newark lose the Department because we need inspections; however the economic situation may dictate what we do; maybe working with the county.

Bain: O Feel a reorganization is required, cuts should have been earlier – has a history of excellent service.

Q9. What are your top three priorities for the City of Newark?

Hall: 1 – collect tax monies due, 2 – deposit in a timely fashion and 3 – invest city money for the best benefit of the citizens.

Oktavec: Reduce crime, economic development and basic services.

Stare: Property maintenance; would like to see brown fields cleaned up to attract industry and more activities and promotion of parks.

Barrett: The basic needs of our community should be our first priority. Fire and Police protection, our Water and Sewer departments, Property maintenance, etc. Without these nothing else matters.

Rath: My first priority is to protect the integrity of the Third Ward. I want to be a watchdog in the area of zoning and development. I do support growth and development in our area but it does need to be the type of development that fits with the existing neighborhood. For example, I am strongly opposed to the government subsidized housing project on River Road. My second priority would be to ensure that Fire and Police are fully funded. I feel that the first priority of city government is to protect its citizens. My third priority would be to

improve upon the infrastructure of the city of Newark. Our roads have improved in recent years but there is still work to be done. I would like to see a regular plan put in place to assure that we never regress to where we were just a few short years ago.

Uible: 1 – safety; 2 – paving; 3 – new business development.

Ellington: Safety & security for our citizens are 1 & 2. Improving infrastructure is No. 3. All else falls after that.

Floyd: 1 – Safety/crime control; 2 – streets – paving and 3 – property maintenance.

Bain: 1 – Safety; 2 – economic development and 3 – paving and infrastructure repair.

CITY OF PATASKALA

Mayor: Terry Beeckman, Stephen Butcher, Michael Fox, Richard Frost

City Council-At-Large: Duaine Ashbrook, C. Bernard Brush, Joe Gernert, Bryan Lenzo, Merissa McKinstry, Andrew Walther, Ray Withers

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Q1. Do you support using municipal income taxes or property taxes to fund local government services?

Beeckman: DID NOT RESPOND TO SURVEY

Butcher: S Income tax as it is a more fair tax.

Fox: S However, the residents have opposed an income tax 2 times (property tax would cost less).

Frost: DID NOT RESPOND TO SURVEY

Ashbrook: I support a municipal income tax to fund our city. An income tax would grow with our city and not be an excessive burden on retired property owners.

Brush: S Both methods. Whatever amount and form the voters will support.

Gernert: S I support an income tax because it is the most fair and reduces the burden on seniors and the unemployed.

Lenzo: S

McKinstry: S I prefer an income tax vs. a property tax. In this economy, a property tax is concerning for the following reasons: paying taxes on homes that have diminished in value; having Pataskala be a city solely reliant on property taxes; and competing with other entities funded by a property tax.

Walther: S I support taxes that are appropriate. The city must be budget conscience and spend within their means. Specifically, our city of Pataskala must have basic services. Our bedroom community lacks a large industry or commercial component for revenue; therefore, it is my opinion that a small, permanent property tax would be appropriate to fund basic government services.

Withers: S I support any funding alternative the Citizens of Pataskala will approve. I prefer an income tax because, to my best knowledge, property tax issues will not grow with the population and an income tax will grow and provide more income for the City should we get our manufacturing district developed.

Q2. Borrowing money using bonds to rebuild highway and bridge infrastructure.

Butcher: S

Fox: S As long as the repayment is attached to a funding mechanism.

Ashbrook: S I support it but only to the ability to repay it.

Brush: S Only if we can repay interest & principal in a timely fashion and maintain sufficient operating revenue.

Gernert: S I support this providing there is no grant money available.

Lenzo: S

McKinstry: S Since Pataskala does not have an adequate revenue stream this is a very important mechanism in financing dollars for infrastructure.

Walther: S I support borrowing money in a conservative fashion based upon future revenue projections that are formulated on solid accounting methods.

Withers: S This is dependent upon the City obtaining some kind of funding in the form of income or property tax so the debt can be properly disposed of.

Q3. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements to help pay for new development.

Butcher: S

Fox: U Developers in general should foot the bill.

Ashbrook: S

Brush: O Opposed to using gimmicks to stimulate development. Only use if and when development occurs first.

Gernert: S Support as long as jobs are created and it presents low risk to the local community (low financial burden).

Lenzo: S

McKinstry: S TIF's are a way to capture the increase in value as the land develops and ensure the city has money to pay for necessities attributed to the land development.

Walther: S A TIF is a tool for a community and city to be proactive regarding proposed developments. The financing districts should be limited to the new development but the projects should be broad in helping the community.

Withers: S If properly timed, this alternative would make an excellent alternative for paying off bond issues.

Q4. Do you support using any financing from the City to promote/develop the JRS site?

Butcher: S

Fox: At this time in its infancy no.

Ashbrook: S Yes I do within the limits of our budget.

Brush: O The city should not risk taxpayer's money without developer's guaranteed commitment.

Gernert: U Depends what the financing is used for and terms.

Lenzo: S

McKinstry: S The JRS site is crucial for the future of Pataskala. I am willing to utilize financing to the best of our ability while not jeopardizing city services for residents.

Walther: O No, not at this time. The City is in the business of running the City and paying for and providing basic services. Promotion and marketing of a private developer site in my view would not be responsible use of the City's limited funds.

Withers: I cannot consider the City to be a funding alternative until we have obtained a continuing funding alternative and have had chance to bring our existing infrastructure back up to acceptable standards. As soon as this is accomplished, I believe it would be in the City's best interest to consider making improvements that would encourage manufacturing to come into town.

Q5. If the income tax issue fails this fall, what is the first cut you would make?

Butcher: We have a few months before additional cuts would happen, but cuts in Police Officers is next.

Fox: None. We need to spend less on engineering and more on basic services.

Ashbrook: The first cuts have already been made. The fat has been trimmed. We would be looking at amputations.

Brush: Maintain basic services first, reduce capital expenditures, then look to wage freeze.

Gernert: There are only two areas of the budget that cuts can be made: Government and Police Department. I would look to cut in that order. But neither is desired.

Lenzo: Certainly, additional cuts will have to be considered; however, I do not believe it is productive or appropriate to speculate at this time what should be cut. The static nature of our current economy makes speculating about potential cuts some several months away, in my opinion, reckless.

McKinstry: DID NOT ANSWER

Walther: The first step that must be taken regardless of the result of the tax issue is an across the board budget evaluation to cut all unnecessary present and future expenditures. Basic services should be a priority. Wage freezes and negotiations with unions should happen as quickly as possible.

Withers: If this occurs, we will have no choice but to start cutting back on already deficient Police Protection in order to maintain some form of protection for more than one year after the Police Levy expires.

Q6. Tax abatements to help attract new business to Licking County localities.

Butcher: S Have supported in the past 3 years.

Fox: S Necessary evil.

Ashbrook: S

Brush: O Another gimmick that attracts short-term business which leaves community when abatement ends.

Gernert: U I support short term abatements, but it depends upon the situation. The local economy and school district will need to benefit.

Lenzo: S

McKinstry: S Tax abatements are a way for Pataskala to be competitive with surrounding cities to attract businesses. I believe TIF's and abatements are good development tools.

Walther: S I support tax abatements that are used responsibly and are negotiated with the local schools input and approval. I believe tax abatements should be applied for on a case-by-case basis. They should be a part of the negotiations once an industry has expressed inter-

est in an area. Abatement should be granted as an industry agrees to become a new partner in the community, not prior to their arrival.

Withers: S As long as an income tax is in place!

Q7. In your opinion, what is the biggest hurdle for the City in trying to bring in new industry?

Butcher: Lack of a tax base to provide critical services.

Fox: Lack of help from city government. Unfriendly staff and codes.

Ashbrook: Our lack of a stable funding mechanism.

Brush: Keeping council focused on maintaining a quality of life for all its citizens first.

Gernert: The biggest hurdle is the negative perception from outside our city and the bureaucracy involved to move forward.

Lenzo: Both the poor state of economy and clear lack of public support for industrial development contribute to the challenges of those who advocate for new industry.

McKinstry: The biggest hurdle is finding a compromise that all sides can agree on to better economic development for the common good of Pataskala. I have strived and will continue to work as a consensus builder. Despite the inadequate funding the city has, we must work together to attract responsible development.

Walther: In my opinion, industry wants to locate where its employees want to live. We can build roads and develop industrial parks but if we do not maintain our parks and provide high quality community activities and basic services our sense of pride within our community will be perceived as poor and that will limit industry attraction.

Withers: Water supply.

Q8. What are your top three priorities for the City of Pataskala?

Butcher: 1 – creation of jobs and new tax revenues that doesn't come from resident's property taxes; 2 – Promote and plan for JRS site and 3 – capturing additional grants.

Fox: 1 – have an efficient and economical Police Department; 2 – Provide adequate funding for streets and 3 – Assist business in locating in Pataskala.

Ashbrook: 1 – Adequate funding for the City; 2 – Encourage growth in the business community and 3 – Spending taxpayer dollars as wisely as possible.

Brush: 1 – Maintain basic services; 2 – Treat all citizens equally and fairly and 3 – Maintaining a quality of life by preserving rural/small town atmosphere/lifestyle that attracts resourceful and enterprising citizens to make Pataskala their home.

Gernert: Obtain a permanent revenue stream that is most fair to the community; develop new and existing infrastructure; create a sense of community and a positive environment that fosters growth and security (Police, Street Dept.). We need to bring both ends of the city together.

Lenzo: Funding, infrastructure and safety.

McKinstry: My top three priorities include a permanent funding source, responsible economic development, and adequate city services that all residents can benefit from.

Walther: Priority one is returning basic services to the community. These should be funded by an appropriate permanent tax that the citizens support. Priority two is to provide the "community" that the citizens want to have. For example, reinstate the Parks Department but do so on a budget that is funded by the programs that are promoted. Number three is work with developers and industry leaders to promote Pataskala for all development opportunities.

Withers: Funding, Organized Growth, Basic City Services.

For more information on polling locations
and times, contact the Licking County
Board of Elections, 740/670-5080