I BIKE, I WALK, I VOTE!

Election 2018

Bicyclists Guide to Voting in Clark, Greene, Miami & Montgomery Counties

VOTER INFORMATION
November 6, 2018 General Election Day.
Polls are open from 6:30AM until 7:30PM.

How Bicyclists Guide to Voting is compiled:
The Bike Miami Valley Regional Advocacy Committee has published the 3rd Voters Guide to provide a forum for candidates to discuss issues of walking, bicycling, and street or trail use. Bicycling is a legal form of transportation in Ohio and has the same rules and rights to the roads as any other vehicle. This Guide also highlights information that can help an everyday recreational bicyclists, a dedicated multi-modal user or a daily cycling commuter get insight to candidates’ political viewpoints, opinions, and personal experiences with bicycling. Letters with four questions were sent to candidates in contested races within the Miami Valley area (counties that are represented in Bike Miami Valley’s regional membership base). Candidate responses have been printed to fit formatting. If a candidate did not respond, NO REPLY indicates the candidate either did not respond or did not meet the stated deadline. In each office, an asterisks (*) notes the incumbent candidates only in the first question, underneath how many candidates a voter can select on the ballot. Bike Miami Valley does not endorse or support views of any candidate or political party. Nor does Bike Miami Valley assume responsibility for the content of any candidate’s reply.
Everyone is nervous because no one knows where they belong. The streets designed for conflict. Everyone is nervous because no one knows where they belong. The presence of a protected bike lane takes that confusion and chaos away. People aren’t fighting over the same space then. Defining space is the reason research shows that people driving cars like protected bike lanes.” (Source:https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/)

Would you support policies and commitments in infrastructure spending bills that promote this type of innovative roadway design? Why or why not?

QUESTION 4: Why do you think people who care about bicycling and walking issues should vote for you?

Ohio Governor/ Lieutenant Governor Candidates
Vote for 1
Mike DeWine / John Husted – No reply
Richard Cordray / Betty Sutton – No reply
Constance Gadell-Newton / Brett Joseph – No reply

U.S. Senate Ohio Candidates
Vote for 1
*Indicates incumbent
Sherrod Brown* – No reply
Jim Renacci – No reply
Philena Irene Farley – No reply

U.S. House Ohio District 10 Candidates
Vote for 1
*Indicates incumbent
Mike Turner* – No reply
Theresa Gasper – No reply

U.S. House Ohio District 8 Candidates
Vote for 1
*Indicates incumbent
ANSWER 1:
Warren Davidson* – No reply
Vanessa Enoch – As a Congresswoman, I believe the most important role I can play in ensuring the safety on public roads is to support and or introduce legislation that will allocate funds for safety on roads. This would ensure that roads are repaired when needed, updated, and designed for use and safety of various types of vehicles, and it would provide resources for safety campaigns.

ANSWER 2:
Warren Davidson – No reply
Vanessa Enoch – I definitely believe that the trails are an economic asset. I would use the trails to attract more businesses to locate to the region. Trails are an asset to communities and can promote a healthier lifestyle and environment. They can also be used to spur investment in the region, because businesses can attract more employees.

ANSWER 3:
Warren Davidson – No reply
Vanessa Enoch – Yes, many big cities have already begun to promote designated bike lanes. I would promote bike lanes because it cuts down on the amount of pollution by cutting down on the number of cars on the street.

ANSWER 4:
Warren Davidson – No reply
Vanessa Enoch – Because I believe in promoting good health and protecting the environment. I will be an advocate for the issues they care about.

5th Ohio Senate Candidates
Vote for 1
Paul Bradly – No reply
Stephen Huffman – No reply

40th Ohio House Candidates
Vote for 1
ANSWER 1:
Phil Plummer – Public safety is my strong point. I have been employed at the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office for the past thirty years. I have been the elected Sheriff for the last ten years. We must do more public safety announcements and train people how to react when encountering a bicyclist. We have some of the best bicycle paths in the Country. We were just recognized for these tremendous assets. Our downtown community is a bicyclist friendly community. We have

 boto
new lanes created on our streets, however, we have not done one single community educational events to keep our cyclists safe. I am an avid cyclist, I know the dangers of riding on our roadways when the motoring public is ill-informed about how to react to cyclists. Education is the key to safety and we must do a better job of doing that. About ten years ago, I did a public safety announcement about cyclist’s safety, we need more of that to protect everyone.

**Ryan Taylor** – At the state level, I would advocate for more opportunities for to help cities and counties design, plan, and develop multi-modal projects. There are already recommendations, best practices, and some unfunded mandates at the federal and state level for multi-modal state projects to ensure safety on our public roads. The difficulty, especially for local governments, is in the planning, development, and funding of these projects; in addition, there is a disconnect in individuals’ understanding multi-modal transportation and the economic impact it provides. I look forward to working with local partners to demonstrate the economic and health impacts that multi-modal transportation has on our community, and finding ways that the State can better support these efforts.

**ANSWER 2:**

**Phil Plummer** – The paved trail network is an tremendous asset in our community. I’m not sure who had the vision for this trail program, but they were awesome. My plan is to properly maintain our trails and event expand them. As I stated earlier, we were just nationally recognized for them. They do bring people to our community who then spend money in our community. We have seen the revitalization of our downtown area, these trails will continue to be an economic driver. We can expand the trails even more and become a vacation destination for all outdoor enthusiast. I am definitely and advocate for our trail system and I will always support the program to the fullest extent.

**Ryan Taylor** – The Miami Valley trails are an important economic asset for our region. We have so many bike focused events, including Miami Valley Cycle Summit, Tour De Gem, and Bike month activities for everyone. These events along with the trail systems add to the quality of life for our community and are an asset in retention and attraction of talent to our region. At the statehouse, I would seek to work with community organizations like Bike Miami Valley, Five Rivers Metro Park, Link, and Dayton Cycling Club to expand on opportunities to promote the region and its trail system.

**ANSWER 3:**

**Phil Plummer** – I would support this type of infrastructure spending bill. As I stated earlier, I am an avid cyclists and I see the danger of sharing the open road with uninformed motorists. Cycling does create a great deal of value to a community due to the economic impact they bring here. We should utilize some of those new dollars created by cycling and reinvest back into infrastructure for the protection of our cyclists.

**Ryan Taylor** – I would support smart designs for multi-modal transportation that makes transportation safe, effective, and efficient for all users including cyclists. I support a model of incremental development and transportation starting with lane diets with designated bike path areas, and I would encourage communities to implement bike lanes as roads are resurfaced and streetscaped.

**ANSWER 4:**

**Phil Plummer** – I feel that people who care about these awesome issues should vote for me because of my background in public safety. I have spent my entire professional career protecting these like minded people. People should be able to go outdoors and enjoy our trail system and feel safe doing it. I am an avid runner and cyclists and I to enjoy these great assets we have in our community. I pledge to keep them well maintained and even expand them. I will also work hard to implement any type of safety measures possible to keep our active citizens safe while working out or commuting on our trails. Unfortunately, we have lost several great assets in our community. We are on the rebound and this is one asset that I will protect. It is an economic driver in our region and we must keep it here. I will do that and I ask you for your vote on November 6th. Please remember, PlummerforOhio. I will take care of you.

**Ryan Taylor** – I believe biking and walking improves quality of life, advances healthy bodies and minds, and adds to our economic vitality in Ohio. Most importantly, I am open to listening to our community’s needs and to work together with others to find ways we can improve the quality of life for all.

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**41st Ohio House Candidates**

Vote for 1

*Indicates incumbent

**ANSWER 1:**

**Jim Butler*** – One of the biggest threats to safety is driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This term I introduced HB568, Sophie’s Law, which will help law enforcement with evidence gathering in crashes that involve death or serious injury. I also introduced a bi-partisan bill to grant drivers that commit non-driving related offenses the ability to get a limited driver’s license to work or school. The great proliferation of license suspensions for non-driving related reasons has resulted in many drivers driving without a license, which can lead to many people falling deeper into the criminal justice system.

**John McManus** – No reply
these trails all the time for exercise planning for future networks. I use developing our existing trails and bipartisan group committed to was formed in March 2017 as a help us do that.

Zachary Dickerson

Lots of people would prefer to use a local level though, so I will work with safe bike routes. That happens at the safe roadways for all users. This can encourage my colleagues to incentivize my family spent most of our free time camping and hiking. I have a deep appreciate for nature and a desire to protect it. I want to be an advocate for smart policies that encourage green energy and promote Ohio’s extraordinary natural wonder. If you’re looking for a candidate that will support cycling, walking, and hiking, I would appreciate your support!

43rd Ohio House Candidates

Dan Foley – No reply
Jeffery Todd Smith – No reply

62nd Ohio House Candidates

ANSWER 1:
Niraj Antani* – No reply
Zachary Dickerson – We need to encourage urban planning that creates safe bike routes. That happens at the local level though, so I will work with local government to make it happens. Lots of people would prefer to use a bike instead of a car. But they won’t do it unless we create a safe environment to commute. Smart urban planning can help us do that.

ANSWER 2:
Niraj Antani – No reply
Zachary Dickerson – If elected, I plan to join the Legislative Trails Caucus! It was formed in March 2017 as a bipartisan group committed to developing our existing trails and planning for future networks. I use these trails all the time for exercise during warmer weather. I am excited to be an advocate for them.

ANSWER 3:
Niraj Antani – No reply
Zachary Dickerson – Absolutely, as I said in my answer to the first question, we need smart urban planning. It benefits the safety of our people and the economy of our state.

ANSWER 4:
Niraj Antani – No reply
Zachary Dickerson – My father was a wildlife biologist. When I was growing up, a hot weather biologist. When I was growing up, my family spent most of our free time camping and hiking. I have a deep appreciate for nature and a desire to protect it. I want to be an advocate for smart policies that encourage green energy and promote Ohio’s extraordinary natural wonder. If you’re looking for a candidate that will support cycling, walking, and hiking, I would appreciate your support!

43rd Ohio House Candidates

Dan Foley – No reply
Jeffery Todd Smith – No reply

62nd Ohio House Candidates

ANSWER 1:
P. Scott Lipps* – No reply
Jim Staton – I support restoring the funding to the local governments which has been slashed by fifty percent under the current State Legislature. As you are aware, local communities bear much of the responsibility for local surface street maintenance and for developing and maintaining biking trails and hubs. In my community of Springboro we enjoy some very modern bicycling hubs and lanes.

ANSWER 2:
P. Scott Lipps – No reply
Jim Staton – I do absolutely see the Miami Valley Trails as an economic asset. In Warren County I have seen the increase of trail use by citizens of all ages including several personal friends who have taken up bicycling in the southern part of Warren County from Loveland to Maineville. I would encourage more investment both private and public to further develop the trail system and expand it into as many communities as possible.

ANSWER 3:
P. Scott Lipps – No reply
Jim Staton – I do support funding and planning geared toward dedicated bike lanes. I believe a biking and pedestrian friendly infrastructure is just the type of forward looking and progressive policy that can make Ohio more enjoyable for our citizens and more attractive to folks considering moving into our State.

ANSWER 4:
P. Scott Lipps – No reply
Jim Staton – I respectfully suggest that people who are knowledgeable and passionate about walking and bicycling issues should vote for me because I share their desire to improve and modernize our roadways and infrastructure to not just accommodate but to enhance bicycling and walking as a greener, more healthy and more communal means of local transport and recreation.

73rd Ohio House Candidates

ANSWER 1:
Kim McCarthy – I will coordinate with the cities and bicycling groups to investigate which roads and intersections are not safe, and work to improve the infrastructure with the resources from the state. Rick Perales* – I will continue to encourage my colleagues to incentivize safer roadways for all users. This can include stricter penalties for safety infractions, as well as incentives to put in special bike paths on roads. Safety should be the utmost priority of the legislature when it comes to issues such as these.
Kim McCarthy — We have a great trail network and our area is well setup for bicycle tourism, yet we continue to fail to get the recognition from the national organizations and rankings that we deserve. There are things to be learned from our neighboring states and their Great Allegheny Passage, Katy, and High Trestle trails, which are more successful at increasing the amount of trail users who visit, spend money, and ride through their communities.

Rick Perales — Absolutely, the trail network is a huge asset for the Miami Valley. As a founding member of the House Parks and Trails Caucus, I take this issue very seriously to ensure the appropriate upkeep and promotion of these treasures of the state. Many people come from all over to utilize the trails in the Miami Valley. To help promote, I have issued proclamations at a number of ‘trails’ related events, plus I sponsored a “Year of the Trails” State Resolution this year. Having the state draw attention to these as tourism. It is looking for opportunities like that is healthy and one that encourages people to safely walk and bike is Aimee McCarthy – Building a community important to me. Bicycling also helps support our local small businesses and the regional economy. As the representative of the 73rd District, I will always want to see that the trails are well-maintained, and that new street projects are implemented with bicyclists and pedestrians in mind.

Rick Perales — I am a huge advocate for our bicyclists and walkers utilizing the assets of the Miami Valley. As the founding member of the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus, we continue to work hard for our constituents that hold this as a top priority.

74th Ohio House Candidates
Vote for 1
*Indicates incumbent
Bill Dean* — No reply
Anne Gorman — No reply

79th Ohio House Candidates
Vote for 1
*Indicates incumbent

Kyle Koehler* — I recently helped pass and voted for House Bill 415. There has been much talk about road conditions and funding of the Local Government Funds in Ohio. House Bill 415 forces the State of Ohio to use 1/2 of any surplus in the future to fund road paving throughout Ohio for municipalities. In 2018, this would have been $385 million in new funds that is divided up by centerline miles. I believe that will help improve the level of safety on public road, while accommodating all users.

Amanda Finfrock – No reply

Kyle Koehler – We recently helped fund the improvement of two bike stops along the bike paths in my district. With more jobs opening up in the 79th District, the bike paths in our area have become a selling point when new workers are deciding to live and work in our district or just commute to work. The bike paths help us attract tax-paying residents.

Amanda Finfrock – No reply

Kyle Koehler – While I will not have much say over the design of roads within our city, I have attended City Commission meetings where changes to Derr Road in Springfield are being proposed to accommodate bike lanes. I cannot direct what municipalities will do with their roadway design, however, I do understand how bike lanes improve safety.

Amanda Finfrock – No reply

Kyle Koehler – I have served the 79th District for four years now. My wife is an avid cyclist and a member of the Road Fish Cycling Club. Her input helps me judge my decisions when it comes to how a vote will affect cyclists in Ohio. Above all, I am known for listening to all sides before making a decision. I look forward to your input as I start my 3rd term in the Ohio House.

Amanda Finfrock – No reply

80th Ohio House Candidates
Vote for 1

D.J. Byrnes – If elected, I will immediately move to return local municipalities to pre-Recession funding levels, at minimum. With this money, I will advocate for the investment in infrastructure, which will allow cities to create more bike/public transit paths and dedicated lanes on roads. We should be moving away from cars and towards bicycles and public transportation as a society.

Jena Powell – No reply

D.J. Byrnes – I have spent many hours on the Miami Valley Bike Trails
one idea I have to promote the region is the creation of a "Tour de Ohio" featuring amateur/professional individual/team races throughout the region. We could also promote an "Ale Trail" featuring local craft breweries/wineries in proximity to the trail and encourage people to drink and dine at each establishment along the way.

**Jena Powell** – No reply

**ANSWER 3:**

D.J. Byrnes – I 100% support policies and bills that provide innovative road design. As mentioned above, it's imperative we move away from cars in the near future. And to do that, we will need to have a plan to service rural residents. The Miami Valley region could be on the forefront of that and could economically boost the entire region.

**Jena Powell** – No reply

**ANSWER 4:**

D.J. Byrnes – I have almost been run off the road by a car while riding a bicycle. I am an advocate in the expansion of biker rights and protections and think society would be better if everyone owned and rode a bike. If elected, I will advocate and fight for pushing Ohioans in that direction. Together, we could build something great.

**Jena Powell** – No reply

**Clark County Commission Candidates**

Vote for 1

Richard Lohnes – No reply

Seth E. Evans – No reply

**Greene County Commission Candidates**

Vote for 1

**ANSWER 1:**

Dick Gould – No reply

Susan Lopez – The one thing I will do in the region to assure greater safety for all is to continue to advocate for increased funding for connections of our bike trails. Our area bike paths are part of the county, Greene County Parks and Trails, which voters approved a levy in 2015 to invest in the trails “maintenance, renovation, and construction projects.” Greene County citizens spoke clearly that they value paved pathways in their neighborhoods when passing this levy I will advocate for continuing pathway connections throughout our communities. This will keep more people safe, as with easy access and availability, more cyclists and walkers will choose pathways versus roadways. It provides greater opportunity for safe areas for people of all ages to ride and walk off roadways. It also offers further opportunity for those with mobility challenges.

**ANSWER 2:**

Dick Gould – No reply

Susan Lopez – As reported by WHIO on July 25, 2018, “In 2017, the county’s tourism industry generated $47 million in state and local taxes, more than $766 million in sales at local businesses and sustained 8,373 local jobs.” It is clearly an economic asset in our area and throughout Ohio.

Miami Valley trails are not only an economic asset in Greene County, they provide an avenue to better health. This fact should be added to literature aimed at recruiting new business. Companies seek healthcare initiatives that are low-cost to free and our trail networks provide that opportunity. Promoting paved trails also attracts families to move into our Greene County communities because of the easy access to bike paths. As a matter of fact, a recent report stated 90% of trail users were “residents from communities along the 360-mile trail.” Our trails should be mentioned in real estate literature aimed at new homeowners, those relocating into our communities, chambers of commerce, and especially to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base community.

Another way to utilize the trail network as a resource is promoting businesses and activities along the trail through coordination and collaboration with area Chamber of Commerce offices, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, TourismOhio, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, other cycling organizations, and even Ohio Department of Transportation. Further is partner with one of our helping organization such as Family Violence Prevention Center to hold a fundraising event or encourage others to hold events near or alongside the bike trails.

**ANSWER 3:**

Dick Gould – No reply

Susan Lopez – There needs to a cohesive plan for infrastructure that relieves confusion and makes the sidewalks, trails, and streets a safe place for all. We lack sidewalks in a great many neighborhoods in Greene County, which does force walkers onto roadways and bicyclists onto roadways where there are not trails.

There are many methods to securing the safety of all, such as a clear pavement change from sidewalk to street so those who are visually impaired know when they are leaving the safety of a sidewalk into the street. To putting barriers between bike lanes and streets to insure greater safety for cyclists. I would also advocate for messages to explain bike lanes on our local channels and on social media. It is clear there are many ways our roadways and sidewalk designs can make citizens safer. I believe these issues must be addressed and designs developed that best protect all on the street, trails, sidewalks, and protected bike lanes.

**ANSWER 4:**

Dick Gould – No reply
Susan Lopez – Because I will listen. I will investigate issues brought before the Board of Commissioners and I will always act and advocate for what is best for all of us and all our communities. I live near a bike path. I’ve utilized the bike trail and see its value to our community. I know that the trail is a community connector, a healthy outlet within our community, and as a huge bonus brings money and jobs into our community. I have been endorsed by Rails-to-Trails (RTC) Conservancy’s Midwest Policy Manager Brian Housh. RTC is a nonprofit that works with communities small and large to promote the creation of trails nationwide. As commissioner will work to continue promotion of this valuable asset, while providing a better balance in budget priorities that put our communities and people first.

Miami County Commission Candidates
Not a contested race

Montgomery County Commission Candidates
Vote for 1

ANSWER 1:
Carolyn Rice – The most important thing I can do as a County Commissioner is to advocate for appropriate transportation funding from the State, and then to work with ODOT District 4, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, and other partners to advocate for funding for complete streets. We need to ensure that all transportation components -- sidewalks, shared and sole bike lanes, and street furniture -- are designed to ensure that the transportation needs of the entire community are addressed. Most funding for transportation comes from Federal and State sources and we need to be as innovative as possible on the local level to ensure that the money is used to ensure safety and accessibility for all residents and all means of transportation.

Doug Barry – First, I tend to think about the most vulnerable among us across the region. That means the elderly and the impoverished, or those whose ability to get around is compromised. These are people who rely on RTA service, so the RTA will be a priority once I’m in office. Keep in mind this is a service that helps over 9 million riders throughout the year. I’ve spoken to CEO Mark Donaghy and much of the RTA’s infrastructure is in disrepair. For instance, the overhead trolley lines need some help. I’m on record saying I’ll help them seek alternative funding methods and stretch available funds as far as they’ll go. That said, it’s not just RTA’s infrastructure that’s a concern. Data shows that many of our major roads and bridges are in poor shape – to say the least – and upgrades will be needed. Reinventing in the downtown Dayton core – bringing more families back into the city to work and go to school – will help alleviate some of the pressure on those area roads and bridges. In the meantime, we need to aggressively pursue all available funds to replace what we can. This was recently accomplished with the completion of the beautiful new Webster Street Bridge.

ANSWER 2:
Carolyn Rice – Our nationally ranked trail system is absolutely an economic and community development tool. The Convention and Visitor’s Bureau already highlight our trail system, and cities in Montgomery County have been privileged to host group rides like the Great Ohio Bike Adventure (GOBA). In addition, local rides including the inaugural Tour de Gem, Tour de Dayton, and other local fundraisers and friendraisers use the trail and street systems as part of their rides. Our designation as part of Bike Route 50 means that through-riders may use our system as part of their larger rides. One way it can become a more powerful tool is to continue to enhance it with amenities like wayfinding signs in each community and a camping options for people on multi-day rides. These options might be as formal as a campground or hotels along the bike paths or as informal as a list of parks and public or private spaces where campers can stay overnight.

Doug Barry – Yes, our trail system is an economic asset. I’ll often hop on a trail near my home in Miami Twp. for a quick run and I always see other people out and about. That means the word is out and people are enjoying their experiences on the trails. There’s still work to do, however, and that’s where input from organizations like yours comes into the picture. We need to bring stakeholders to the table to have honest discussions. What’s needed? Are we doing enough to lobby for donations? Is the county doing enough to champion the trails? We need to assemble the stakeholders and put our heads together. Ideas come through collaboration. And then we need to act.

ANSWER 3:
Carolyn Rice – Yes, I support complete streets, including designated bike lanes where practical. A few roads, particularly those that are high traffic or which lack sufficient space, may not be appropriate for bike traffic or bike lanes. Other roads, such as low-traffic country roads, may be better served by sharrows and other devices. Dedicated bike lanes are particularly appropriate for urban streets, which are most likely to have a concentration of bicycle users. Additionally, another part of the solution is formal and informal training for car drivers and bike drivers to become comfortable sharing the road. Courteous Mass Rides and How We Roll programs of Bike Miami Valley and its chapters provide important opportunities for increasing safety and comfort of everyone using the roads.
Doug Barry – Yes, I believe bike lanes add a sense of clarification and would like to see more of them.

ANSWER 4: Carolyn Rice – People that care about bicycling and walking are people that care about their community. I also love this community and would be proud to take on a new leadership role in it. I am the best qualified candidate for County Commission because I have 30 years of experience that will allow me to make an immediate contribution. I was born and raised in the area; we returned to it to raise our children and pursue careers because we value this community and its amenities. I care about building community through collective problem-solving, which is what the biking and walking community here does every day. Your approach has led to a renewed energy that’s built on Dayton’s biking history and has laid a foundation for making our community more people-centered in the future. And that is how I intend to lead as Montgomery County Commissioner.

Doug Barry – I want the voters to know I share their passion. I use these trails and have enjoyed them immensely. My wife and teenagers have used them too. They promote an active lifestyle that adds up to a healthier community. I’ve often said we don’t have an ocean or mountains here in Montgomery County, but we have innovative ideas that accomplish similar things. Our trail system was an innovative idea that has found success. It’s one of the things that sets us apart from other communities and it’s a tangible asset all generations can enjoy. My family and I have experienced these things firsthand.

Find your voting precinct and polling location, options for voting early or by absentee ballot, ID requirements, etc. online at the Ohio Secretary of State’s website: www.myohiovote.com