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Candidate:

District 57 - Ohio House of Representatives



Hi Friends!

First, I would like to thank you for signing my nominating petition earlier this spring in my drive to get on the ballot as an independent candidate for District 57 Ohio House Representative. Your signature was instrumental. The task was large, but we were successful and my petitions were submitted and validated by the Lake County Board of Elections in May.

Because of you, my name will be on this November's ballot!

The words "non-party candidate" will appear next to (or under) my name. This is an accomplishment which we can all be proud of since the nomination for a non-party candidate requires a significant number of documented registered voter signatures (far more than the 50 needed for Democrat or Republican candidates). I needed a minimum of 511 individual signatures submitted on valid petitions – with a maximum allowable of 1,533. I ended up submitting 714 signatures with 669 vetted and validated – putting me in excess of the required minimum by a safe margin. This was Goal #1 and it was accomplished with a lot of leg work. I truly appreciate the effort of the many friends who helped.

Once that was accomplished, I had many decisions to make regarding what my campaign would look like, how I would raise funds (or even if I would raise funds), and what message I wanted people to hear from me.

I decided early on that my goal would be to reach the undecided, unaffiliated voter.

Next, I decided to place all my cards in the basket of experience, and I that I would stake my reputation on my greatest assets – my professional qualifications, my work experience, and civic engagement. I believe these assets will resonate with people from all walks of life and from all sides of the political spectrum.

Last, I had some decisions to make regarding fundraising and spending. I have long felt that big dollar donations and high-profile endorsements have the unintended consequence of removing objectivity from public perception about decision making. With this in mind, I chose to do very little fundraising – fueled by the desire to maintain my independence as well as to run a low-budget campaign which would be sensitive to the economic conditions most people are struggling with right now. Rising prices

have cut into household budgets and I am sure yours is no exception. I did not want to ask people for money to fund my endeavor when households are already stretched to capacity or beyond.

So – no yard signs or wide coverage campaign mailers, no slick video productions. Just me, myself, and this letter. As I read some of the campaign postcard material showing up in my own mailbox on a daily basis now that election season is in full-swing, I am glad I made this decision. The mailers I receive offer nothing of substance to voters who are otherwise unfamiliar with a particular candidate.

This letter is my way of providing you with substance. It is my way of telling you about me, what I stand for and what I propose to do if elected. This letter is my way of communicating to everyone that I do not offer vague promises with no substance to back up the soundbites. I offer real solutions. I will not leave you guessing “HOW?”

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

I graduated from John Carroll University with a BSBA in Accounting in the Centennial Class of 1986. I went on to a career in audit and tax – starting at Cohen & Company (public accounting firm). I successfully passed the CPA exam in 1986 and went on to attain my CPA license from the Ohio Accountancy Board in 1989 after fulfilling the multi-year service requirement in place at that time. Soon after, I opened my own full-time private CPA practice which I was able to grow over the next 25 years. My clientele ranged from retail to manufacturing, non-profit, and professional service firms.

During that time, I became increasingly involved in my local school district. In November of 2009, I was elected to my first term on the Riverside Local Schools Board of Education. I am now serving my fifth consecutive term and I am in my 17th continuous year as an elected board member.

During my Riverside BOE tenure, I elected to further my education and attained my School Treasurer’s license from the Ohio Department of Education (now the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce). In 2013, I made the decision to downsize my private practice and return to the mainstream workforce – putting my newly earned school treasurer’s license to work by taking on the role of school district treasurer at Ledgemont School District. Ledgemont was in fiscal emergency at the time I took on that challenge, and the experience and exposure to advocacy that I gained in my 2-year tenure there has proved invaluable repeatedly.

Meanwhile I continued to maintain a small private tax practice – which I still maintain today.

In June of 2015, Ledgemont School District merged with Berkshire Local School District through a territory transfer made possible by temporary legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly. To this day, being responsible for the merger and closure of Ledgemont School District remains the most defining period in my professional career.

I took a year off to regroup, and during that time, my family hosted an international exchange student. When my Italian “son” returned home in August of 2016, I was ready for a new challenge.

I took a position as Corporate Controller for The Centers for Families and Children in Cleveland, OH. The largest behavioral health non-profit in Cuyahoga County, this position once again had me

managing transition during a merger with Circle Health (formerly known as The Cleveland Free Clinic). The Centers today remains one of the largest federally qualified health organizations in NE Ohio – with multiple primary care, behavioral healthcare and in-house pharmacy sites, numerous Head Start Early Education sites, and a number of grant funded job-training sites across the Cuyahoga County.

Concurrently, I decided to go back to school and in May of 2018 I graduated again from John Carroll University – this time with my MA in Nonprofit Administration.

In April of 2019 I took a position as Chief Financial Officer at Help Foundation, Inc. and I have held that position ever since. Help Foundation is a Medicaid funded fee-for-service non-profit agency that provides services to the disabled community at 18 residential locations, 3 adult day service locations and 3 vocational training locations. Additionally, we provide employment services, job-development and career counseling as well as non-medical transportation services with a fleet of 37 vehicles. The agency manages 66 low-income housing units through two subsidy contracts with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and we provide Social Security fiscal payee services to a substantial number of the individuals we serve.

Coming full circle, the three largest revenue sources and expenditure line-items in the State of Ohio are centered around income and property taxes, education services, and Medicaid funded service delivery. All the experiences I have had over the years have led me to the right place to be in public service, as I have in-depth knowledge of all these critical issues. This direct experience will allow me to get started immediately to address concerns facing Ohio residents.

If you feel – like I do – that qualifications and experience matter, then you can feel confident when you vote for me or refer me to others, as I bring 40 years of this direct and relevant experience to the table every time I show up. And I always show up.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH IF ELECTED

First, I aim to address school funding, academic accountability and financial accountability and transparency.

- I would propose or support legislation that fully funds the Fair School Funding Plan as originally proposed using the most recent cost data set which would be updated for inflation on an annual basis.
- I would propose or support legislation that would call for a Constitutional Amendment to update HB920 to allow for inflationary growth.
- I would propose or support legislation that limits the amount of funding provided to voucher expansion programs by reducing the income thresh-holds for eligible families.
- I would propose or support legislation that caps the private school voucher amount to either the state public-school share or the student's resident public school district formula funding –

whichever is less.

- I would propose or support legislation that requires voucher funded institutions to reimburse the resident public school district for transportation services.
- I would propose or support legislation to ensure that all Ohio students take the same state-mandated tests in the same grade bands, covering the same subject matters, using the same tests and testing methods.
- I would propose or support legislation that requires all Ohio schools (public or private) be subjected to state report cards that track the same data using universal data collection requirements.
- I would propose or support legislation that requires the use of the universally accepted state software for reporting financial and student data for every Ohio school with a state-issued public or private charter. I would further propose that all schools be required to report the data in the same manner and timeframe as public districts are required currently. This would ensure that reported school data is comparable across institutions and districts.
- I would propose or support budget legislation that fully funds high-quality preschool programs across the state for all children of preschool age.
- Because public schools support all students during the school-day (under Federal IDEA laws), and Medicaid Waiver only steps in outside of the school day, I would propose or support budget legislation that supplements IDEA and fully funds special education services for all students with medically identified disability diagnosis through the age of educational matriculation. This would include special transportation services, equipment, personnel and facility infrastructure needed for service delivery.
- I would propose or support budget legislation that increases funding for behavioral health services at all state-chartered public schools.
- I would propose or support budget legislation that requires the State of Ohio to immediately fully fund all past-due amounts "on-hold" to any public school district that participated in the Expedited Local Partnership Program in collaboration with the Ohio Facility Construction Commission.
- I would propose or support budget legislation that requires the State of Ohio to set aside a much larger pool of funds annually to fully address Ohio public school facilities. The State of Ohio should more actively assist in funding the infrastructure improvements necessary to

ensure that all students in Ohio have access to facilities that are warm, safe, and dry, that provide a comfortable and technologically advanced learning environment, and that will improve student success in an advanced global economy. This would include funding to:

- Upgrade all public school facilities with fully functional air-conditioning.
- Expand spaces for career-tech needs (including technology and equipment needed for those programs).

Second, I aim to address income tax and property tax relief for Ohioans who need it most.

- I would propose or support legislation that would add a wide bracket of tax-free earnings to the state's flat-rate tax calculation system. This would allow people who earn a modest income to keep their earnings completely tax free.
- I would NOT be in favor of legislation that would further reduce or completely eliminate the state income tax.
- I am NOT in favor of further cuts or complete elimination to the corporate Commercial Activity Tax.
- I am NOT in favor of the expansion of sales taxes to offset any proposed property tax relief measures.
- I AM in favor of expanding sales-tax holidays when warranted by excess available funds in the State budget.
- I would propose or support legislation that would reinstate and/or increase property tax rollbacks that were eliminated in previous legislative sessions.
- I would propose or support legislation that would create fully reimbursable new property tax rollbacks and credits for all Ohioans, as well as legislation that would expand rebates provided to seniors and first-time homebuyers. All proposed rebates or credits would be fully funded by the State of Ohio directly back to the local taxing entities.
- I would propose or support legislation that would completely eliminate the state income tax credit for donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations who provide scholarships to K-12 students attending private schools.

Third, I aim to address the inadequacy of services and benefits offered to special populations.

- I would propose or support legislation that would increase Medicaid funding for Homemaker Personal Care (HPC) services for the disabled.
- I would propose or support legislation that would increase state aid or Medicaid funding for vocational and employment services for the disabled.
- I would propose or support legislation that would provide additional funding for in-home or day program services for seniors that could provide an alternative to nursing homes or assisted living.
- I would propose or support legislation that would provide additional funding and access to high-quality childcare for working families.

IN CLOSING – WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT ME?

I show up. I work hard. I listen. I do not give up when the job is challenging. I am objective and collaborative without being judgmental. I am innovative and strategic while still being fiscally responsible and budget conscious. By using my leadership skills, I hope to create a positive climate where people from all sides can work towards common goals.

I want what I think everyone wants: peace, prosperity and an environment that is without hostility. I want to know that Ohioans can raise their children in communities that provide an excellent education, where they are rewarded with the promise of a well-paying job and a secure future, have the ability to afford the purchase their own home, and can retire comfortably and without worry about rising costs and fixed incomes.

What can you do to help?

Please share the QR code above with all your friends via text or email!

Spread the word and we will be successful this November.

THANK YOU!