



Candidates Respond to Questions Impacting Local Businesses

November 4, 2025: General Election | Early Voting begins October 7

A complete list (and ballot text) can be found at HancockBoardofElections.com.

The Findlay•Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board invited the following candidates (running in contested races) to respond to a questionnaire in order for you, the business community, to vote pro-business. Learn why the candidates chose to run and their top priorities should they be elected. These candidates were asked to respond, up to 175 words, to each question below. Those responses are listed exactly as they were received, and those that exceeded the required word count were stopped at 175 words.

Findlay Council-At-Large
Findlay Council – Third Ward
Findlay Council – Fourth Ward
Findlay Council – Fifth Ward
Orange Twp Trustee*

Union Twp Trustee*
Van Buren Twp Trustee*
Washington Twp Trustee*
Arcadia Village Council
Findlay City School Bd of Education

Arcadia School Bd of Education
Arlington School Bd of Education
Van Buren School Bd of Education
Vanlue School Bd of Education

**Indicates no responses were received from any candidate*

Findlay: Member of Council At Large

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Jenny Fall: I was motivated to become a candidate when I experienced seeing an increase in the number of people sharing that they felt underrepresented with the current City Council. It's important to me that each member of our community feels heard and supported, regardless of the issue. Being proactive in understanding Council's role with each decision, keeping transparent communication and honest feedback has to be key to helping to make sure each citizen of Findlay feels heard and represented.



Heather Kensinger: I came to Findlay several years ago to be here for my parents as they are aging. My Father wanted to move home to the place where he was raised, here in Findlay. I quickly fell in love with this town that I had heard about all my life. Watching our town grow and knowing how much I believe in the future of Findlay motivated me to run for office. I am grateful for my own family's history here and want to honor the legacy of those who have gone before me by ensuring this town remains a wonderful place to live and work for generations to come.



L. Reed Needles: My decision to run for office stems from a commitment to the well-being and future of our community. As someone who has lived in Findlay for much of my life and raised my children here, my commitment to this community runs deep. I'm not just running for city council—I'm stepping forward as a neighbor, a parent, and a professional who wants to ensure Findlay continues to be a place where families thrive and businesses grow. I understand the value of listening first and acting with purpose. I will prioritize that same approach to city council. With thoughtful leadership and a genuine connection to the people of Findlay, we can build a future that reflects the best of who we are.



Bradley L. Wagner: It became clear to me with the current eight members of council resigning there is a need for experience and leadership. As previously stated, I am compelled to serve the city of Findlay. If I am elected, I will take this oath of office as seriously as I took the oath of enlistment when I served in the United States Navy.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Jenny Fall: I believe that my experience with several layers of our community, organizations and businesses will allow me to understand and communicate with the citizens of Findlay. I believe that people need to feel that their leadership is being honest and transparent, both when they agree and when they disagree. Sharing the reasons why decisions are made and the processes that each decision goes through will be an essential tool that I can bring to help bridge those gaps of perceived and real lack of communication.



Heather Kensinger: I believe our community needs people who believe in it, people who are willing to help bring businesses and opportunities to Findlay. I am not coming in with my own agenda. I have some ideas based on conversations I have had with other people in our community who run businesses, are raising families, working, or have retired here. Our city should be a destination point for surrounding communities and welcoming to those who want to plant their roots here.



L. Reed Needles: Through the years, I've seen both the strengths and the challenges our community faces—from economic shifts to infrastructure needs and the importance of maintaining strong public services. My background has given me a unique perspective: I understand how to listen, how to lead with empathy, and how to manage resources responsibly. These experiences have instilled in me a belief that good governance starts with fiscal responsibility and a genuine commitment to hearing the concerns of all residents. I believe Findlay deserves leaders who are not only financially savvy but also deeply connected to the people they serve. As a councilman my priority would be to guide our city toward a future that reflects everyone who calls Findlay home. Leadership isn't about having all the answers—it's about showing up, and doing the work.



Bradley L. Wagner: My key issues are sound fiscal management, open communication, and ensuring safety of all Findlay residents. Other than my time serving in the Navy, I have been in business my entire life. I feel that my common sense, business-minded leadership will prove invaluable to any and all financial decisions. With regards to open communication, I have posted my personal cell phone number and an email address. I will respond to all questions in a timely manner. Concerning safety, I will work with the current administration regarding our infrastructure, streets and water departments, to make sure that we all enjoy a well-functioning city. With my military background, it will be my honor to work closely with all of our first responders to ensure that Findlay is safe.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Jenny Fall: It will be important to work with local businesses and organizations on a consistent basis. My goal will be to set up regular informal town hall style meetings and invite representatives from the business community to share their ideas and concerns. My goal will be to take information from these meetings and share with other council members and determine how we can help be a resource to help these businesses be successful, while also understanding the impact any decisions will have on the people in this community.



Heather Kensinger: In the course of my job at State Farm, as a board member at Fresh Ministries, and as a Pastor's wife, I have had the opportunity to meet with business leaders and entrepreneurs in our city. I love to ask questions and understand where people are coming from. Taking the time to speak up for yourself and other business owners takes courage, and I value that. I am always ready to listen and engage. I do not have all the answers, but there are so many talented and smart people in our city that we have the privilege of drawing from. Beyond that, I am involved in community events; this is my home. I will show up at places that are important to you and be ready to listen.



L. Reed Needles: Local businesses are the heartbeat of Findlay—they create jobs, foster innovation, and give our city its unique character. As a candidate for city council, I'm committed to working closely with entrepreneurs and business leaders to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met. I plan to collaborate actively with the Chamber of Commerce and our economic development team to stay informed about the challenges and opportunities facing our business community. Beyond formal channels, I believe in the power of direct conversation. By engaging with local owners and listening to their experiences, we can build policies that reflect real-world needs and drive sustainable growth. Transparency is key. I'll work to keep the public informed about any plans, changes, or events that could impact them, because when residents and business leaders are in the loop, we build trust and foster collaboration.



Bradley L. Wagner: I am a local, small business person and I feel that I have an intimate understanding of their current needs and concerns. I am always willing to speak with anyone I meet in public. My cell phone number and email have been published for anyone who would like to contact me.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Jenny Fall: Creating a community where all residents feel included and heard is very important to me. My goal as a member of the City Council would be to ensure that there are opportunities where community members feel they can ask questions, share concerns and understand the city's role in certain decisions. I would like to create small meet ups throughout the year - where community members can gather informally to ask questions, meet other neighbors and business leaders in their area. My vision for these meet ups is to provide a less structured space where people may not feel as intimidated to bring concerns or share ideas and thoughts.



Heather Kensinger: I appreciate that there is a form that can be used to address City Council with concerns; however, I don't think everyone who wants or needs to be heard fills out that form and comes to a Council meeting. I think there should be additional ways for members of the community to sit down with Council members on a regular basis and engage in dialogue. Every month, decisions are being made that can have an effect on the City, and you, as business owners and residents. Hearing from you before Council makes decisions is essential. With that being said, I have an open-door policy. My personal number is on my business cards and I am happy to sit down and engage in meaningful dialogue with anyone who wants to.



L. Reed Needles: My approach to public service begins with a simple but powerful principle: listen first. I'm committed to engaging with all residents—especially those who feel their voices have been overlooked or that the city hasn't been responsive to their needs. Once in office, I'll prioritize open and continuous communication. That means meeting people where they are—whether it's through email, social media, community events, or face-to-face conversations. I'll actively seek out opportunities to connect with residents across all neighborhoods, and backgrounds. Inclusivity isn't just a goal it's a responsibility. I'll work to ensure that city updates, decisions, and opportunities are communicated clearly and accessibly, so no one is left out of the conversation.



Bradley L. Wagner: As I stated above, I am an open book and I consider myself to be easily approachable. I am always willing to listen to people's concerns and ideas.

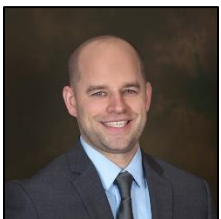
Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Jenny Fall: I am most excited to develop relationships and understand the unique benefits and concerns of living in different parts of the city. I'm looking forward to fostering those connections and figuring out the best way to connect city services and businesses in different and unique ways. I think that by creating new and different connections with the people and the business community throughout the city has so much potential. I'm also excited to understand the unique concerns that each ward experiences - as someone who has only lived in the 3rd ward in my time in Findlay, I think there are so many things that I can learn that includes the uniqueness that each neighborhood and ward contributes to the city.



Heather Kensinger: If elected, I am most excited to walk with Findlay into the next stage of our history. I am excited to help ongoing, solid growth take place in our city in the areas of business and housing, and in what we have to offer in Findlay. I want to help our city be prepared for what is coming next and make sure the policies we put into place benefit the people who live, work, and call Findlay home.



L. Reed Needles: One key area I'm eager to focus on is economic development. By working closely with the Chamber of Commerce and our economic development team, I hope to support local entrepreneurs, attract responsible investment, and create a thriving business environment that benefits everyone. I'm also passionate about transparency and communication. I want to make sure residents are informed and involved in decisions that affect them. And finally, I see a real opportunity to promote fiscal responsibility, I'm ready to help ensure that our city's resources are managed wisely, so we can invest in the services and infrastructure that make Findlay a great place to live.



Bradley L. Wagner: Findlay is currently positioned to become greater than it ever has. All needs and concerns will require common sense and business-minded thinking to ensure that we all benefit and succeed. The next two years in Findlay are sure to be some of the most exciting, challenging, and successful times in the history of not only Findlay, but Hancock County, the state of Ohio, and our great country. I commit to give 100% to the position of City Councilman At-Large. It would be my honor if the citizens of Findlay see fit to elect me.

Findlay: Third Ward

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Shaun Mason: I decided to run because I've seen how much local government decisions affect our daily lives. Whether it's the condition of our roads, the opportunities available for small businesses, or the support we give to families and seniors, these choices matter. Over the years I've been active in community organizations and civic discussions, and I've heard frustrations about transparency, accountability, and whether leadership is really listening. Those conversations convinced me that we need leaders who approach problems with common sense, put people before politics, and work to create fair, practical solutions. My professional background has taught me to solve complex problems and build consensus across different groups, and I believe those skills are exactly what we need. I'm motivated to make sure every voice in our community is heard and that decisions are rooted in collaboration, fiscal responsibility, and long-term planning that benefits everyone.



Carol S. Smith: I am motivated by a commitment to making Findlay a safe and welcoming place to live, work, and raise a family. My career in early childhood education has shown me the importance of supporting children, families, and community connections. I am running to ensure that the voices of everyday residents in Ward 3 are heard and represented in city government.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Shaun Mason: My leadership philosophy is grounded in service. I believe elected officials should create conditions where every resident feels supported and valued. I hope to strengthen our community by prioritizing investments that improve everyday quality of life; things like safe infrastructure, strong schools, accessible healthcare, and thriving local spaces where people gather. Just as important is how those decisions are made. I want to encourage collaboration between residents, local leaders, and community groups, so that solutions are built with broad input and buy-in. Through open communication, transparency in decision-making, and accountability for results, I want to help foster trust in government. I also believe we must focus on long-term planning, not just short-term fixes, so that we're building a foundation for the next generation. By working together and listening carefully, I believe we can strengthen the bonds that make our community resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking.



Carol S. Smith: I believe leadership begins with listening. My priorities include supporting youth opportunities, strengthening community safety, and expanding access to resources that help families thrive. I will focus on collaboration, building trust, and working with others to find practical solutions that move Findlay forward.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Shaun Mason: A strong local economy depends on supporting small businesses and attracting new investment. I plan to listen directly to business owners and advocate for policies that reduce unnecessary red tape, streamline processes, and make it easier to grow here. Investing in infrastructure, workforce training, and partnerships with schools will help provide the talent businesses need to succeed. I also believe in creating opportunities for collaboration between city leaders and local entrepreneurs, so decisions are aligned with what actually works in the marketplace. By keeping government efficient and focused on creating the right conditions for growth, we can strengthen our tax base, create good jobs, and keep our community competitive.



Carol S. Smith: Local businesses drive our community's success. I will support reducing barriers, encouraging growth, and fostering an environment that attracts new investment while supporting existing businesses. Having managed and worked in small-scale childcare programs, I understand the challenges entrepreneurs face and will work to strengthen partnerships that help businesses succeed.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Shaun Mason: The best decisions come from leaders who listen. I plan to make it easier for residents to be heard by offering multiple ways to share input; public meetings, online surveys, and open office hours. I believe government should meet people where they are, whether at neighborhood events, schools, or community gatherings. Accessibility also means making information clear and straightforward, so people know what decisions are being made and why. When residents have confidence they are being heard and kept informed, it strengthens trust and improves results. I want to make sure that government remains accountable to the people it serves.



Carol S. Smith: I will remain accessible through community meetings, social media, and open communication. By actively listening to residents from all backgrounds, I will ensure city decisions reflect the needs of Ward 3. I also value building stronger connections with diverse groups to make engagement more inclusive and representative of our community.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Shaun Mason: I'm most excited about opportunities that strengthen the basics and build long-term stability. That includes improving roads and infrastructure, supporting housing that fits the needs of families and seniors, and making sure public safety remains a top priority. I also want to focus on keeping our community a great place for young people to build their future, with strong schools, career opportunities, and an economy that rewards hard work. Another priority is restoring trust in government through transparency and fiscal discipline, so residents know tax dollars are being spent wisely. With steady leadership, I believe we can make our community stronger today while preparing for tomorrow.



Carol S. Smith: I am most excited to advance opportunities that support youth development, enhance community safety, and strengthen connections between residents and local resources. I also look forward to collaborating with organizations to address homelessness in a compassionate and practical way. My focus will be on solutions that benefit families, businesses, and the long-term future of Findlay.

Findlay: Fourth Ward

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Daniel DeArment (Incumbent): The three remaining flood mitigation projects, the master plan and reconstruction of our water treatment system, and the repositioning of the city's investment strategy and portfolio are important projects that I would like to see through completion.



Sarah Jo Pugh: I attended a city council meeting and was met with many questions. I believe our community deserves transparency, accountability, and a stronger voice in local decision-making. Too often, large projects and policies move forward without residents being fully informed or included in the process, and I want to change that. I believe the concerns people have about how tax dollars are being spent, the handling of environmental safety issues, and the lack of clear communication between leadership and the public, matter. These experiences inspired me to step forward, not as a politician, but as a neighbor who cares deeply about Findlay's future. I want to make sure families, workers, and business owners all feel represented when decisions are made. By serving on council, my goal is to bring openness and community-driven leadership to the table, so that every voice matters, and Findlay grows in a way that reflects the priorities of our community.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Daniel DeArment (Incumbent): One of the city's main responsibilities is to build infrastructure. My 38-year career in civil and environmental engineering and business management lends itself directly to this objective. My core competencies include remediation of contaminated properties, building stormwater ponds, building and operating water and wastewater treatment plants, and road construction. Additionally, I am committed to re-thinking our investment strategy to wisely and conservatively invest the city's \$100M portfolio to obtain maximum yields on a long term basis. I've been researching and working towards this goal for the last 16 months.



Sarah Jo Pugh: Understanding, unifying, and adapting under all circumstances to provide support, clarity, and giving the community a voice. I believe strong leadership begins with listening to the people you represent. My goal is to create a more transparent and collaborative relationship between our local government and the community by ensuring residents are informed and actively involved in decisions that affect us all. I hope to strengthen Findlay by prioritizing open communication, supporting responsible growth, and protecting the health and safety of our families.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Daniel DeArment (Incumbent): I've always been passionate about economic development and hope to be appointed as the city's liaison to the Alliance Economic Development Board. I am currently working with a local entrepreneur on developing a military focused industrial park through my involvement on the Planning and Zoning committee.



Sarah Jo Pugh: I love Findlay's adaptability and local support within the community. I personally support our local businesses as well as share, engage and recommend them. I will work alongside local entrepreneurs and businesses by creating open lines of communication, listening to their needs, and ensuring they have a seat at the table when decisions are made. Supporting small business leaders and fostering an environment where they can thrive is key to a strong local economy.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Daniel DeArment (Incumbent): By listening and engaging. I receive messages and requests from constituents monthly voicing their neighborhood concerns such as feral cats, fireworks, and homelessness, to city-wide issues such as farm animals, park development, budgets and spending priorities. I always respond with written correspondence or a meeting to discuss.



Sarah Jo Pugh: I implore all communication through every avenue including meetings, email, in person, mail, even online surveys or comments and questions on posts. I'm always reading, learning and adapting to truly understand all perspectives of our diverse community. I want to create opportunities for every voice to be heard, especially those who often feel overlooked. By listening intentionally, removing barriers to participation, and allowing the citizens to be part of decisions, we can help Findlay thrive.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Daniel DeArment (Incumbent): Our community's highest priority is flood mitigation. After 18 years of hard work by hundreds of community members, we are very close to receiving final approvals and full funding this fall. All three of the remaining projects (phase 2 benching, railroad bridge replacement and dry basin) should be completed in the next 2-3 years. We need to make sure those projects stay on track. The water treatment plant is 94 years old and requires a significant investment to upgrade the facility. We are currently working with an engineering consultant to prepare a 20-year master plan that will prioritize our needs. I plan to chair the Water and Sewer Committee next year. The city has \$100M in our investment portfolio. We currently employ a short-term term strategy that has underperformed the market by \$2.5M over the last three years. We are in the process of establishing a Finance Committee to oversee the transition to a longer-term strategy with higher yields.



Sarah Jo Pugh: I'm unsure about specific opportunities given to citizens who are elected into City positions. Any opportunity to help serve our community is one thing I'm extremely excited about, if elected. To be honest, whether I'm elected or not I plan to do everything I can to be more involved and help make our community stronger.

Findlay: Fifth Ward

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Brian R. Bauman (Incumbent): As the incumbent, I am motivated to seek reelection because there is still much to be done. We have achieved many great successes during my time on Council but I believe the best is yet to come. I am excited about our City's future and I look forward to the work ahead in terms of economic development, flood mitigation and continued infrastructure investment and improvement.



Kevin J. Cullen Being a resident of Findlay for decades, I now find myself motivated to run for Findlay's 5th Ward because there is much unfinished business in my ward when we talk about the development of reliable infrastructure and city services. My wish is to act as a strong advocate for my ward and its citizens. I have owned a home in the 5th Ward for over ten years and decided to become involved in the decision-making process downtown. Findlay is a great little city, and I believe it needs to continue on its path of downtown developments which will make Findlay not just a great place to live and raise your kids, but also a beautiful destination for visitors.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Brian R. Bauman (Incumbent): I am a big believer in servant leadership, my leadership style is one of cooperation and collaboration. I trust in the process and when making the tough decisions, my first question has always been "is it good for Findlay?" and if it's good for Findlay it gets my vote.



Kevin J. Cullen I received an MBA in Leadership and Organization from the University of Findlay in the year 2000. I plan on utilizing it, my prior city council experience (another town), and my years of corporate experience broadly looking at a scenario (like sewers and other infrastructure in West Park), analyzing its strengths and weaknesses, and identifying opportunities to shore up areas that require it, then setting long term plans that will help to insure those strengths expand and grow for the betterment of the community. All of this while working hand in hand with council members to design solid, attainable plans that are transparently budgeted and shared with the community at large via clear, truthful communication.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Brian R. Bauman (Incumbent): Cooperation and collaboration as I briefly mentioned in my last response. When everyone is at the table our City is better for it.



Kevin J. Cullen I have always been a bridge builder and will use this method to unite local entrepreneurs (of which I am one myself) and business leaders in the quest to create a fertile environment open to fresh ideas for consideration. When eventual enactment occurs, my hope is that it will continue our fine city's growth for all of our citizens, not just a chosen few. All great projects begin with a dream or vision. And when the right team is assembled to see that dream go from thought to finished product, we as a community benefit.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Brian R. Bauman (Incumbent): Accessibility to our local elected officials is one of the primary cornerstones of our democracy, and is vital for me to do my job as a City Councilman. Neighborhood meetings are just as important as Chamber meetings because it is important for me to understand all perspectives of the issues we face as a City.



Kevin J. Cullen My first bachelor's degree was in Communications/PR as well as Japanese Language and Culture. When engaging with constituents, communication is the key to ensure the receiver really understands the message. Next, how and to whom that message is presented and proliferated will determine who is and who isn't included. I choose to include all of Findlay's citizens when I speak to constituents. Accessibility: Using a multitude of print, digital and word of mouth platforms to send and relay the message should provide blanket coverage of all constituents in our city. Sometimes it's hard to stay on message. I will do my best to make sure when council speaks, it's to all Findlay residents, no matter what color, religion, belief system, age, financial status, All of them. And feedback will be carefully considered and added to whatever ongoing conversation we as a council engage in.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Brian R. Bauman (Incumbent): I am excited for the continued success of our City, and I will work to help ensure that our future remains bright, to make the tough decisions in pursuit of our collective prosperity.



Kevin J. Cullen I am most excited for the opportunity to get out into the community and share a coffee or a conversation to see what dreams they have for a better community. To put my finger on the pulse of our people to find out what they are proud of, think we can improve on, and any other input they may have. Every person you meet has a story to tell. I'm all about listening, weighing, then approaching my colleagues to see if there is a reasonable way to help our community move in a positive direction.

Arcadia Village Council

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Stephanie Balderson (Incumbent): I am running as an incumbent for Arcadia Village Council in order to help with the continuation of the Heart and Soul Community Foundation grant that has greatly benefited the community.



Rhonda L. Dingelstedt (Incumbent): My prior experience as a council member has motivated me to run again. I have a deep respect and appreciation for those who maintain the inner workings of our community and am proud to have had the privilege of being a part of it for several years. I hope to continue to serve in the years to come.



Jeff Hanna: a) The Village of Arcadia owns a water distribution system, a sanitary sewer collection system and an electric distribution system. I would like to see the utility department be more forward thinking with maintenance, reliability and customer service. b) Public safety: Vehicle traffic around the Arcadia School has been on council's agenda for the past year or so.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Stephanie Balderson (Incumbent): I am a lifelong resident of Arcadia, and I have experienced and watched the Village grow and change as a council member throughout the years. I am sure that the Village will face challenges as future growth continues; however, I look forward to helping make these changes a positive experience for Arcadia and the community. I consider being a council person a privilege as far as watching and being a part of the many changes, challenges, and growth that Arcadia will continue to encounter. I have twenty years experience with the village council which includes four years as Mayor. I feel that I have a solid understanding of the history and knowledge of the Village. This is beneficial to the people and the community.



Rhonda L. Dingelstedt (Incumbent): I will continue to strengthen and support my community by being an engaged participant. I believe it is important that the wants and needs of all community members be heard and considered, and I will be available to do so. I will also continue to participate in the Heart & Soul program, from which many of our community's ideas for improvement have come.



Jeff Hanna: a) I will bring a calm and calculated voice to council. b) I will encourage residents to be more involved in their local government and encourage council to listen to and resolve residential concerns quickly and efficiently.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Stephanie Balderson (Incumbent): This is actively happening with our Heart and Soul Foundation committees.



Rhonda L. Dingelstedt (Incumbent): In order to maintain a thriving and inclusive economic environment it is important to maintain fairness. All entrepreneurs and current businesses should be afforded the same opportunities and should be treated equally when it comes to applying Village rules and regulations.



Jeff Hanna: a) I believe council has done a good job of this in the past and I plan to continue listening and working with local business owners.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Stephanie Balderson (Incumbent): We are currently engaging in these types of conversations and projects with our Community Heart and Soul Foundation grant.



Rhonda L. Dingelstedt (Incumbent): I believe that ensuring inclusive and accessible engagement that reflects our community's diversity boils down to communication and availability. Council members must be available to everyone in the community. If there are barriers to that availability, be it physical, lingual, etc...those barriers must be addressed and accommodated to the best of our ability.



Jeff Hanna: a) Council members need to be attentive to constituents questions and concerns. b) The following are options for residents that can be included with their utility billing. These can be address by talking directly with a council member, stopping by or calling the utility office and posing the question/ concern to the utility clerk which she can forward to the mayor, or council member to personally check on the concern. The resident can also attend council meeting to pose the question/concern directly to council.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Stephanie Balderson (Incumbent): Being on council and working with the Heart and Soul committee has helped me better understand what the majority of the residents and people of the community of Arcadia would like to see improved upon and their wishes.



Rhonda L. Dingelstedt (Incumbent): If elected, I am most excited to see the continuation of the Heart & Soul program. I am also looking forward to being a part of making some improvements to our infrastructure, including our roads and sidewalks.



Jeff Hanna: a) I would like to implement a 5- year and a 10-year plan for our utilities, be more forward thinking, be prepared for future investments in our systems. b) Put together a plan for street resurfacing. c) Complete the rebuild on the electric distribution system that was started several years ago.

*Candidates running for Arcadia Village Council who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Carol Ann Berning, Adam Duckett, Michelle Hengsteler, Shelley Hill (Rachelle), Carol J. McDonald*

Findlay City School District: Board of Education

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Kaleb Brankamp: My wife Jill and I along with our three children (Sebastian, Gabby, and Penelope) have lived in Findlay for ten years and during our time here I have come to cherish this community and the values we hold dear. One of those values, enshrined in the Ohio Constitution, is the guarantee of a “thorough and efficient” public school system. While we are blessed to have many talented and dedicated teachers and administrators in the Findlay City School District, I believe there are opportunities to improve our school system so that every child can pursue his or her dreams regardless of socio-economic background. These opportunities are what motivated me to become a candidate in this election, and they include: 1) raising state testing scores for English Language Arts in grades 3-8, 2) ensuring security at our schools is robust and adequate to protect our children, 3) improving our School Report Card ratings for early literacy and post-graduation readiness, and 4) working to reduce chronic absenteeism.



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): I chose to run for office because of my deep connection to this community. I was born and raised a Trojan, and my love for Findlay—especially Findlay City Schools—runs deep. My professional experience gives me a unique perspective on the challenges our students, families, and staff face every day. When I first decided to run, I knew it wouldn't be easy. The district was in a difficult place, but my goal has always been clear: raise expectations and help build a school system that exceeds what our community hopes for and deserves. It's been a challenge getting from where we were to where we are now, but we've made real progress. The district is finally able to move forward, and I'm committed to continuing that momentum. I believe in our students, our staff, and our community—and I'm excited about the future we can build together.



Katie Hite: The 1% earned income tax levy sparked my candidacy for the Findlay City School Board. While working with Citizens for Findlay School Board to inform the community about the need for stable public-school funding, I saw Findlay is at a pivotal juncture in stewarding public resources. Statewide, the contrast is stark: Ohio ranks #5 in CNBC's America's Top States for Business 2025, yet #27 in education and #31 in workforce. Public education anchors the workforce; when it falters, the whole system suffers. Listening to educators, families, and employers reinforced this urgency. Stable, predictable funding lets schools plan responsibly and invest in what works for students today. Decisions in Columbus have tangible consequences in Hancock County. More public dollars are directed to private education, adding pressure on public-school budgets and student services. I'm running to champion fiscal responsibility, transparency, and outcome-focused governance. I'll advocate funding that strengthens public education, sustains the workforce pipeline, and serves Findlay's long-term interests—so every student has real opportunity and taxpayers can trust how dollars are used, now and in the future.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Kaleb Brankamp: As a former Findlay youth football coach and children's catechist at my local parish, I've worked hard to invest in the lives of children in terms of character development. One way I hope to strengthen our community is by supporting and advocating for the THRIVE Act (HB 269), which is an Ohio house bill introduced by state representative Kevin Ritter to promote character education in Ohio public schools. The model curriculum includes such topics as: 1) the value of finishing high school, 2) working full-time, 3) getting married before having children, 4) and instruction in character traits such as trustworthiness, honesty, reliability, punctuality, responsibility, care for family, kindness and generosity toward others, respect and care for human life, respect for parental authority, gratitude, charity, and courage.



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): Leadership is never easy, and this position has, at times, been more challenging than my role in the fire department as a battalion chief. Working through the district's shortfalls hasn't been simple, but we are now on a clear path forward. The relationships I've built have helped strengthen our district's safety and security—so much so that a retired FBI chief called us the most protected district in the country. That's something our community should be proud of. These efforts have also led to partnerships with the Ohio Department of Public Safety and support for other districts seeking help with their safety measures. Growing up in Findlay, I didn't fully realize how special this place was until I left—and ultimately came back. What troubles me now is the division and constant infighting

in our political space. Progress doesn't happen overnight, and it takes collaboration. I'm committed to working with anyone willing to move our schools and our city forward—together.



Katie Hite: I will strengthen and support our community by championing every student who walks through Findlay City Schools' doors. Our schools and community have a symbiotic relationship—when students have opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive here, Findlay grows stronger too. As a board member, I'll focus on: • Equity and access: ensuring all students have rigorous academics, career-technical opportunities, and the support they need to succeed. • Partnerships: deepening collaboration with families, local employers, and civic organizations to connect learning with real community needs. • Transparency and stewardship: making data-informed, fiscally responsible decisions that build trust. • Positive climate: fostering safe, inclusive schools where students and staff feel respected and engaged. By strengthening our schools, we strengthen Findlay—preparing graduates who contribute to a vibrant local economy and a thriving community.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Kaleb Brankamp: I believe that post-graduation readiness is directly linked to economic prosperity in Findlay. Currently, Ohio's labor force participation rate is 63.2 percent. One of the ways we can increase this percentage is by working with local entrepreneurs and business leaders to strengthen the amazing program offerings at Millstream Career Center. Our goal as a community should be to graduate students who are ready to go on to post-secondary education, enter the workforce, or join the armed forces. We can only achieve this goal by seeking input from local business leaders and finding creative ways to encourage interest in skilled trades.



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): Serving on the board has been a great opportunity to connect and collaborate with local businesses and community leaders. These relationships are incredibly valuable for our students—they are the next generation of leaders and connecting them with real-world experiences is essential to their growth. Millstream Career Center expands these opportunities even further, allowing business leaders to engage directly with students through mentorship, guest speaking, and hands-on learning. I'm committed to working with any business or leader who wants to get involved in our schools. There are many ways to share knowledge, inspire students, and help them understand the skills and mindset needed in today's workforce. These connections not only benefit our students but also strengthen the

local economy by preparing a workforce that understands the challenges and opportunities in our business community. Together, we can build a stronger bridge between education and industry, ensuring a bright future for both our students and our city.



Katie Hite: As Assistant Director of the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education (Ohio ACTE), I recognize that student and community success depends on strong education–industry relationships. I will collaborate with local entrepreneurs and business leaders to define shared priorities, co-design opportunities, and respond to evolving workforce needs for all stakeholders. In Findlay, that means leading with careful and active listening, valuing diverse perspectives, keeping a long-term focus, and committing to high standards so our future leaders are prepared to thrive in the new economy. The goal is shared prosperity—when we elevate opportunity and expectations, the entire community rises.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Kaleb Brankamp: I believe in maximum transparency with parents and taxpayers so that they know what their children are being taught and how their tax dollars are being allocated in the school budget. Transparency builds trust in the community, and if I'm fortunate enough to be elected to the School Board I promise to put this value at the forefront. I will ensure engagement by pursuing opportunities outside of regular public school board meetings to dialogue with parent-teacher organizations, the teacher's union, faith-based and non-profit organizations, athletic and creative arts booster clubs, and the Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce.



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): I've always made it a priority to be open and honest with anyone who reaches out—whether through email, personal conversations, or social media. I regularly share updates and opinions publicly to keep the community informed and to invite feedback. I take every question or comment seriously and do my best to respond thoughtfully and thoroughly. If I don't have an immediate answer, I make sure to follow up or connect the individual with someone who can provide clarity. Engagement matters, and I've never shied away from a conversation, even when the topics are difficult. I believe that transparency and respectful dialogue are essential to building trust. Board meetings are also a valuable opportunity for community members to share their perspectives directly with us, and I welcome that input.

Open communication is key to making informed, community-driven decisions, and I remain committed to ensuring everyone has a voice in the process.



Katie Hite: My north star: lead with respect, stay curious, and help every child thrive. Engagement must be ongoing, inclusive, and reflective of our whole community. • Meet people where they are: Rotate listening sessions across Findlay; offer in-person and virtual options. • Broaden representation: Create parent/guardian, student, and educator advisories that mirror district demographics; invite business, nonprofit, and faith partners. • Center student voice: Include students in agenda-setting on issues that affect them. • Measure & improve: Use disaggregated participation data to spot gaps and adjust outreach. • Model respect: Set clear norms for civil discourse so all voices are safe and heard. Engagement done this way turns respect and curiosity into progress—and helps ensure our decisions reflect the hopes and needs of all families in our community.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Kaleb Brankamp: One topic that I'm passionate about and excited to promote is school safety and security. Our children are one of the most precious segments of our community and society in general, and their safety deserves the same focused attention that we expend in the private sector to protect sensitive workplaces. Sadly, the evil epidemic of school violence continues to plague our society. As a corporate attorney focused on environmental, safety, and security, I hope to bring my experience to bear on the issue of safety and security in our schools. When it comes to protecting our schools, we must ensure that we're employing best practices and constantly looking for ways to improve.



Matthew R. Cooper (Incumbent): This is the most excited I've ever been heading into an election. It would be an honor to earn one more term and continue serving the citizens of this incredible city. The Findlay City School District has faced serious challenges for years—issues with leadership, accountability, student discipline, student expectations, and direction. Funding has also been a concern. But with the community's recent support, we've been given the opportunity to finally make real progress. That gives me hope—and excitement—for what's ahead. As a board, we've worked hard to analyze data, understand the root issues, and make smart decisions without sacrificing student experiences. Now, we're able to rise-up. We can build efficiently and strategically to meet—and exceed—our community's expectations.

Academics will remain our core focus, but we're also committed to supporting current opportunities and capitalizing on additional opportunities for all students. I know what this district is capable of, and I'm confident in the path forward. The work isn't done—but I believe we're about to make major strides, together.



Katie Hite: If entrusted with this role, my top priority is to ensure that every Findlay student graduates career- and college-ready. I will expand participation in high-quality, career-connected learning and clearly defined pathways. I'll champion rigorous, skills-based instruction aligned to the demands of the new economy—partnering with families, educators, and employers so students graduate not only with diplomas, but with the competencies, credentials, and plans to thrive in their next chapter. With Ohio's School Report Cards now including the College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness (CCWMR) measure, my state-level experience positions me to lead meaningful progress: aligning coursework to in-demand fields; scaling high-value work-based learning; strengthening industry-recognized credentials

and dual credit; and monitoring outcomes for continuous improvement. Above all, I believe every child deserves to know who they are, where they are going, and to have trusted adults guiding them along the way—and I will work to make that a reality for every student in Findlay. Guiding Futures, Growing Findlay—is what I believe in.

Arcadia School: Board of Education

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Rachelle Harmon: After being involved in local grassroots projects the past few years and seeing elected officials working first hand, I decided I want to be a part of making a difference in my community at the school level to make sure our children receive a strong education. I want to help our community see how hard working our students are and that support for the school stays local.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Rachelle Harmon: I am active in multiple groups in our community within and outside of the school. I hope to use these groups for feedback to help me be a strong leader on the school board to provide a strong education for our students.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Rachelle Harmon: I plan to work hand and hand with the whole local community of Arcadia School tax payers/ local business owners and not just those who have children attending the school to provide support where needed to help make Arcadia the best school for everyone.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Rachelle Harmon: I plan to be an honest, transparent open book for everyone in our community to reach out with any issues. I will be available by phone, email, and social media. I will continue to see that Arcadia financials are reported on the school website, that board meetings are posted, and video recordings available to view so everyone has a chance to be involved.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Rachelle Harmon: I plan to help continue to see our school district stay out of the red and not needing any new levies without proper reasoning. As a board member, I would work on ways to utilize our gym space. Work on providing support for the feed our kids program, and the athletic ,music, and agriculture departments. My main focus is seeing our kids continue to receive a traditional strong education.

Arlington School: Board of Education

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Ted Welsh: Arlington Local School is in the midst of building a brand new campus, what more exciting time to become part of something special? This project will leave a legacy for generations to come. While not a graduate of Arlington High School, I have two daughters that currently benefit from Arlington's academic, athletic and musical programs. I also have roughly 12 years experience in public construction and feel I could bring an "outsiders" perspective to various topics.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Ted Welsh: I plan to have a collaborative relationship with the community, built on trust and effective communication. Students can only benefit from a school system that has a strong relationship with its community members rather than one that is fractured.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Ted Welsh: Like many small towns throughout Ohio, the local school is often the face of the community. Our school hosts many extra curricular activities throughout the year and the new facility will only expand those possibilities. During those events we encourage participation from all community members as well as provide opportunities for local business engagement.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Ted Welsh: Providing accurate information in a timely manner will be a priority. Also scheduling meetings that would fit most work schedules will be very important in order to get optimal community engagement.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Ted Welsh: I am most excited to hear about the needs of the students, staff, parents and community. By not bringing a specific agenda to this role I feel it allows me to evaluate each situation with common sense and integrity. My excitement lies with the opportunity to do what's best for the Arlington Local School of today and tomorrow.

Candidates running for Arlington School District Board of Education who did not respond to the questionnaire:

Kevin E. Hartman, Cindy K. Hindall, Mark A. Russell

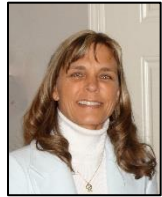
Van Buren School: Board of Education

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



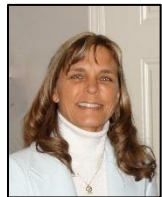
Erica Kelley: A long time friend and Van Buren teacher had encouraged me in the past to run for the School Board. This summer she passed away and that motivated me to become a candidate this election. Another motivator for me is that my father was a lifelong educator and I had great respect for him. He saw all sides of education as he held positions as teacher, coach, High School Principal, Superintendent and finally after retiring an Elementary Principal. Finally, my children graduated from Van Buren and were well prepared to face the challenges they encountered as young adults. I would like to help ensure new generations have that opportunity.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



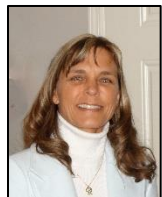
Erica Kelley: I believe in fiscal responsibility, while also providing students with a high quality education that prepares them for whatever career path they choose. Students should receive support in making decisions about their futures that meet their skills, interests, and current job demand. It is important to the success of the Community that Van Buren Schools strive for Excellence. Working as a project manager has provided me with experiences involving budgeting, organization, communicating with multiple stakeholders, and problem solving. This background should be an asset as a Board member.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



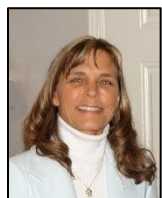
Erica Kelley: This question doesn't seem to be relevant to School Board candidates, however I do believe programs that expose students to local businesses to learn about career opportunities are very important.

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Erica Kelley: This question also appears to be aimed at other elected offices, however School Board decisions need to consider all students and community members, not just a narrow cross section.

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Erica Kelley: This also appears to be a question that mainly applies to other elected offices, however strong schools benefit communities in many ways. Educated, well-rounded graduates can help businesses succeed and attract new employers to the area.

*Candidates running for Van Buren School District Board of Education who did not respond to the questionnaire:
Jamie Cunningham, Laura Ebright, David Gladysz*

Q. What local issues or experiences motivated you to become a candidate in this election?



Eli Hershberger: My reason for running for school board : My discovery that more students in the district are enrolled in surrounding schools than in the district they live in.

Q. In what ways do you hope to strengthen and support the community through your leadership?



Eli Hershberger: What do I hope to accomplish? Find out why parents are choosing to enroll their children somewhere other than Vanlue. Encourage my fellow board members to do what is best to provide the education each child deserves.

Q. How will you work alongside local entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a thriving and inclusive economic environment for our community?



Eli Hershberger: I am prepared to listen to the history and tradition the school has in the community . Most important is providing an education to all district children that will prepare them for the future .

Q. How will you ensure that engagement with constituents is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of our community's diversity?



Eli Hershberger: I am prepared to listen to the history and tradition the school has in the community . Most important is providing an education to all district children that will prepare them for the future .

Q. If elected, what opportunities are you most excited to pursue that will benefit our community?



Eli Hershberger: If elected, I hope to look into ways to give at least high school students the opportunity to be involved in other programs such as vocational agriculture, DECA , Industrial Arts , STEM and other programs that other schools have available that are not offered at Millstream.

The Chamber Encourages You to Review the Entire Ballot

Please be informed and carefully review all of the issues on the Nov. 4 ballot for Hancock County.

A complete list can be found at HancockBoardofElections.com.

Arlington Village 1Mil

Replacement 1 Mill for 5 years for the purpose of fire equipment.
Commencing 2025

Arlington Village 2.5Mil

Replacement 2.5 Mills for 5 years for the purpose of providing fire protection
commencing in 2025.

Fostoria City

Income Tax Renewal, for the purpose of providing funds for street repair,
capital improvements, infrastructure, Kaubisch Memorial Public Library,
development, parks and recreation, citywide cleanup and beautification
and general fund.

Allen Township

Renewal of .9 Mills and an increase of .6 Mills at a rate not exceeding 1.5 Mills
for 5 years for the purpose of providing fire protection commencing in 2025.

Orange Township

Renewal 1 Mill for 5 years for the purpose of current expenses commencing
in 2026.

Union Township

Bond Issue 1.2 mills, \$750,000, 15 yrs., commencing 2025 for new Township
building

Liberty-Benton LSD

Substitute 4.74 Mills for a continuing period of time for the purpose of Emergency
Requirements of the School District commencing in 2025.

Seneca County General Health District

Renewal .3 Mill Property Tax for 5 years, commencing in 2026 for the purpose
of current operating expenses

Lucky's Tavern [4B]

Sunday Sales, on and off premise, Wine, mixed beverages and spirituous Liquor.

Sheetz, Ohio [Allen East]

Sunday sales off premise beer, wine, and mixed beverages.