



VOTER REPORT

Candidates Respond to Questions Impacting Local Businesses

May 5, 2026: Primary Election | Early Voting begins April 7th

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 for **HANCOCK COUNTY COMMISSIONER** 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.

Hancock County Commissioner

Q. What inspired you to run for Hancock County Commissioner, and how do your experiences prepare you for this role?



Timothy K. Bechtol (Incumbent): After serving the architectural needs of five previous boards of Hancock County Commissioners over twenty-four years, I decided to offer my specialized management skills to serve the county more directly as a commissioner myself. I was appointed by our local GOP in 2016 to fill an open seat on the board - now running for the third time to maintain that seat. Architects and Commissioners solve the same types of issues while helping people. Both professionals know how to handle tight budgets. While both professionals are often expected to be experts in many fields, we do know where to find the right expert for any situation. Experience makes a pivotal difference in any commissioner's effectiveness. I invested time learning how the commissioners operate before running for office – not all candidates do the same essential preparation work. Now in my tenth year as your public servant, I have witnessed more context to certain issues that come before our Board of Commissioners from time-to-time. Experience matters when decisions need to be made in the public's best interests.

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Gina R. Campbell: The reason I am running for Hancock County Commissioner is that I live in Allen Township in Hancock County and I am concerned with the direction Hancock County is going. It once was a place to purchase land, build a home and raise a family with plenty of job opportunities. The fabric of the American Dream of property ownership, job opportunities and a prosperous future. Now, we are experiencing increased taxes, lack of higher paying job opportunities, lack of home ownership and the continued desolation of agricultural land in the name of Green Energies. I have worked in Hancock County for 40 years from Solomon Software to Microsoft to the RightThing to ADP. The skills I have developed in Accounting Software, Human Resources and Talent Acquisition across diverse small-large local businesses and national and global industries have prepared me for this role.



Orion Jones: What inspired me to run for Hancock County Commissioner starts with my family. I have twin 12-year-old daughters, and like so many parents in our community, I want to ensure they have the same opportunities, safety, and prosperity that generations before us have experienced here in Hancock County. Professionally, I bring over 20 years of leadership experience across higher education, business, and large-scale operations. I've managed multimillion-dollar budgets, led capital projects, and overseen facilities and teams at a high level. As a former head college baseball coach, business professor, and executive leader. I've spent my career building teams, developing people, and creating systems that work. That combination, real leadership experience, financial oversight, and a deep commitment to family and community, is what inspired me to step into this role and give back. I want to use my skill set to help keep Hancock County the amazing place it is to live, work, and raise a family.



Rachel Rader: As a lifelong resident of Hancock County, this community has always been home to me. I care deeply about the people, the neighborhoods, and the future of our county. Growing up and living here has given me a strong understanding of what makes Hancock County special and the challenges our residents face. My experiences in local government for 30 years have allowed me to see firsthand the importance of responsible leadership and smart use of taxpayer dollars. Preserving the values that make our community a great place to live and work has inspired me to run for County Commissioner.

Q. What do you see as the top priorities for our community, and how would you approach addressing them if elected?



Timothy K. Bechtol (Incumbent): Every new commissioner quickly learns that their top priorities coming into office are among over 100 topics that the Commissioners deal with on a routine basis. All of our discussion topics are given their fair share of time with the Board's proper attention. Balancing what is good for Findlay as well as the townships is a never-ending, thankless task. Folks who live in our various townships and villages are making the deliberate choice to not be part of city life while Findlay residents enjoy the sense of community they receive from their neighborhoods. We have the ability here in Hancock County to see both groups of residents thrive in their preferred living environments. Continue making our local flooding issues part of our past, not our future. Continue improving the health of our waterways throughout the county. Continue to promote improved health of our citizens of all ages. Continue updating our county facilities for improved public service. Maintaining safe communities while encouraging efficient growth.



Gina R. Campbell: 1. I will protect private property ownership and listen to the residents and business owner's concerns and work with them for resolutions. 2. I will be transparent and fiscally responsible by using a balanced approach to tax abatements to make sure they are not excessive and creating an unwanted burden on the tax payer. 3. I will support locally owned businesses through workforce development and hiring efforts. 4. I will support our local Law Enforcement and public safety through community and local school education programs.



Orion Jones: Based on what I've seen in commissioner meetings and conversations across the county, there are several clear priorities: ·Flood mitigation and infrastructure improvements ·Long-term facility planning ·Fiscal responsibility and efficient use of taxpayer dollars ·Stronger alignment and communication between the county, city, and townships. Flood mitigation alone has been a consistent topic in nearly every meeting this year, showing how critical and ongoing that issue is for our county. My approach is simple: ·Focus on long-term solutions, not short-term fixes ·Use data and planning to prioritize projects ·Eliminate inefficiencies through better coordination and shared services ·Ensure every major investment delivers measurable value to taxpayers.



Rachel Rader: I believe the top priorities for our community are maintaining fiscal responsibility, encouraging responsible economic development, and carefully managing issues related to annexation. As County Commissioner, it is important to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used wisely and that county government operates efficiently while continuing to provide the services residents rely on. Economic development is also essential to the long-term success of our county. Supporting responsible growth, attracting new businesses, and helping existing businesses expand will create jobs and strengthen our local economy. Annexation is another issue that must be approached thoughtfully. It is important that decisions are made in a way that protects the interests of county residents while promoting cooperation between local governments. If elected, I would work to ensure these decisions are made with transparency, careful planning, and the best interests of the entire community in mind.

Q. How will you work with local businesses, employers, and economic partners to support a strong business climate?



Timothy K. Bechtol (Incumbent): Maintain our low sales tax rate – 2nd lowest in all of Ohio. Continue to encourage our residents to shop locally whenever available. Nurture our business relationships fostered through our Economic Development and Chamber of Commerce offices as we support the growth of our established businesses while we welcome in new enterprises to the county. Working with our local businesses is a highlight of serving as a county commissioner. We must be discerning on how we promote growth and expansion because business development deals often seek tax abatements and incentive packages that deplete potential county tax revenues. Hancock County has proven that bigger is not always better. Continue encouraging both county and city schools in their efforts to train our current students for future innovative employment opportunities. Continuing to fund job-training programs like Raise the Bar is an effective method of growing our future workforce. Funding an expanding public transportation network benefits so many folks among us with otherwise limited options to get themselves to work, shop, and just live in the modern-day world around us.



Gina R. Campbell: By using a balanced approach, I want to attract and keep businesses that BEST Benefit our community, makes the lives of our residents better and improves agriculture growth.



Orion Jones: I believe economic growth comes from strong relationships and clear communication. As a business owner who holds a master's degree in business, and someone actively engaged with the Chamber and local organizations, I understand what businesses need and I make my decisions based on a simple formula: ROI - Return On Investment. That means evaluating: ·Where we invest our resources ·How that investment benefits the community, including ◦Financially/Economically ◦Social impact and quality of life ◦Short & Long-term value and gain; Workforce alignment, ensuring our decisions support both employers and employees. I will: ·Partner closely with the townships and cities to ensure I know what their short- and long-term goals are. ·Have open and transparent lines of communication. ·Ensure that decisions are made in conjunction with all parties involved to find solutions that benefit all stakeholders. Most importantly, I will bring a mindset of collaboration, not competition, between the city and county, which is critical for long-term economic success.



Rachel Rader: Supporting a strong business climate starts with building strong relationships and maintaining open communication with local businesses, employers, and economic development partners. As County Commissioner, I would work closely with our local economic development organizations, community officials, and business owners to understand their needs and identify opportunities for growth while preserving neighborhoods and communities. A strong business environment helps strengthen our entire community by creating jobs, encouraging investment, and supporting long-term economic stability. My goal would be to ensure the county continues to be a place where businesses can grow and succeed.

Q. What steps will you take to improve communication, transparency, and engagement with residents and stakeholders?



Timothy K. Bechtol (Incumbent): Help folks realize how much communication, transparency, and engagement the commissioners already provide to the public – more than ever before. I introduced our Town & Country Tuesday gatherings as a way of increasing our commissioners’ availability to more residents of both Findlay and our surrounding communities. I host regular Open Office Hours for public comment with no appointments ever required. I created our social media accounts for the commissioners’ office. I enjoy attending every public event that I have time to support. We encourage everyone to contact us in the commissioners’ office whenever you have a question or concern about a public project. Don’t trust the rumor mill ~ get the facts directly from us. We invite everyone to attend our public business meetings held on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. We always reserve time in each meeting to address any public concerns of that day. We are always on the constant search for more community volunteers to serve many of our local organizations and agencies where the commissioners appoint select members to those boards.

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Gina R. Campbell: 1. I will have Town Hall Meetings after 5pm so that our workforce will be able to attend. 2. I am open to utilizing all forms of local and social communication to reach our community, that includes radio, newspaper, social media and anything else to make sure everyone is informed and has a say in our community.



Orion Jones: The number one thing I will do as your County Commissioner will be to spend time with each township and city to get a full understanding of their priorities, pain points, and short and long-term master planning. Collaboration and Communication are central to us working together to find solutions that benefits individual township priorities and Hancock County as a whole. I will: ·Provide clear, consistent updates on major county projects and spending ·Increase public engagement opportunities beyond just formal meetings ·Deliver objective, fact-based information on any and all issues and proposals, then work with the individual stakeholders to find the solution that works best for their community with a goal of the best interest for Hancock County as a whole.



Rachel Rader: Improving communication and transparency starts with making sure residents feel informed and that their voices are heard. As County Commissioner, I would support clear communication about county decisions, finances, and projects so residents understand how their tax dollars are being used and what issues are being addressed. I believe it is important to be accessible and engaged with the community. This includes listening to residents, attending community events, and maintaining open lines of communication with local leaders, businesses, and organizations. Encouraging public participation and feedback helps ensure that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of the people who live and work in Hancock County.

Q. How do you plan to approach issues such as county infrastructure, public services, and fiscal management?



Timothy K. Bechtol (Incumbent): We have accomplished so much so far while I have been serving the county as a commissioner – especially in our flood mitigation efforts. We funded the first river benching project downstream of Downtown Findlay. We raised vehicle access paths out of floodplains near the river. We developed wetlands on county-owned farmland. We have prepared sites for the next steps of flood control along the north bank of the river. Working with communication providers to extend fiber optic data lines throughout our county. Encouraging our township trustees to investigate neighboring water & sewer sources to provide additional options to their residents and businesses. Continue to publicly share plans for Road Access Management, Comprehensive Land Use, Farmland Preservation, Urban Prairies, Flood Mitigation, Ditch & River Maintenance, and Annexation Initiatives. We manage our county budget based on available revenue without increasing sales tax rates locally. We have managed to grow year-over-year increases in our year-end carry-over balances, Budget Stabilization Fund, and sales tax revenues without increasing the sales tax rate. We need to continue this success!

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Gina R. Campbell: By developing a clear point of contact and by working in conjunction with our residents, stakeholders and public officials to bring forth the best solutions for our community.



Orion Jones: These are the core responsibilities of a county commissioner, and my background in facility management & operations, large fiscal budgetary oversight, and master planning investment strategies provide me the professional working knowledge to excel at the following: ·Managing appropriations, transfers, and budgets across multiple funds ·Overseeing infrastructure projects, ditch maintenance, and public facilities ·Coordinating contracts, services, and long-term capital planning. My approach will focus on: ·Fiscal discipline – Every dollar must be justified and aligned with priorities ·Operational efficiency – Maximizing current facilities, staff, and resources before expanding ·Strategic planning – Especially around major projects like a new jail or facility use plans ·Accountability – Clear tracking of outcomes for every major investment. I am a fiscal conservative that has managed large budgets and complex operations before, and I understand how to balance vision with responsibility. Closing: At the end of the day, this role is about stewardship, of taxpayer dollars, community trust, and the future of Hancock County. My goal is to lead in a way that honors what has been built here while positioning us for the next generation.



Rachel Rader: County infrastructure, public services, and fiscal management all require careful planning and responsible decision making. As County Commissioner, I would work to ensure that our infrastructure and essential services are properly maintained and improved in a way that supports both current residents and future growth. By working collaboratively with county departments, local officials, and community partners, we can make thoughtful decisions that maintain essential services, support economic growth, and ensure that Hancock County remains a great place to live and work.

The Chamber Encourages You to Review the Entire Ballot

Please be informed and carefully review all of the issues on the May 5 ballot for Hancock County.

A complete list can be found at HancockBoardofElections.com.

Riverdale LSD	Renewal 1% Income Tax for 3 years for the purpose of current expenses
Bluffton Public Library	Additional 1 Mill for 10 years for the purpose of current expenses
Mt. Blanchard Village	Additional 5 mills, 5 years Current expenses
Allen Township (Unincorporated Area)	Zoning Issue
Amanda Township	Renewal 1.5 mills, 5 years for Fire Protection
Delaware Township	Renewal 2.5 mills, 5 years for Fire Protection
Union Township	Bond Issue 1.0 Mill for 15 years for the purpose of constructing, furnishing and equipping a new Township garage and clearing, improving and equipping its site
Crooked Can – Sales	Local Option Question 1 on-premise sales of beer, wine and mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor, an applicant for a A-1A liquor permit
Crooked Can – Sunday Sales	Local Option Question 2 on-premise Sunday sales of wine and mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit