



CRITIQUE



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ELECTION 2014

Ohio's Future: Which Direction?

This fall, Ohio voters have a choice between two different futures for our state and how its policies and economy will affect working people. Over the past four years, with one-party rule in Columbus, Governor Kasich and corporate-backed politicians have passed laws that put the needs of Ohio's wealthiest above everyone else and hurt hard-working Ohioans. They have attacked voting rights, collective bargaining rights, and the financial stability of local communities.

Ohio needs an economy that works for all its citizens. We need a Governor and Lieutenant Governor who will fight to bring good jobs that pay a fair, living wage, enough for workers to support their families and live a decent life out of poverty. Ed FitzGerald and Sharon Neuhardt support raising the minimum

wage. They will crack down on corporations that cheat workers out of pay for hours worked (wage theft).

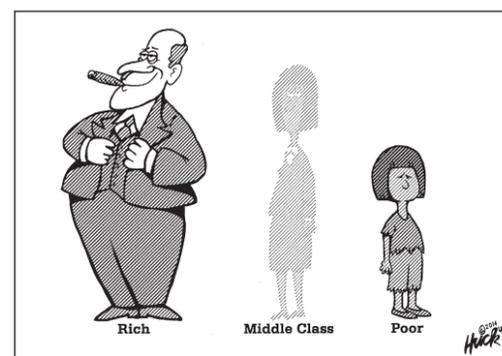
Governor Kasich's changes in Ohio's tax policy raised taxes on seniors and Ohio's middle class by raising the sales tax and eliminating the Homestead Property Exemption for senior citizens,

while massive tax cuts went to the wealthy. Ed FitzGerald will work to create an economy that benefits everyone, and will end tax breaks for companies that send jobs overseas.

Governor Kasich's tax cuts at the state level, which disproportionately benefitted the wealthiest, have caused devastating cuts to local communities, schools, and public services. As Cuyahoga County Executive, Ed FitzGerald balanced the county budget without cutting funds to local communities, and created a transparent economic development fund that brought thousands of jobs to the area.

It's time to bring some balance to Columbus, to put a stop to the attacks on workers and their unions, and elect a Governor and Lieutenant Governor who

will stand up for working families and for workers' rights.



District 16: Western Cuyahoga County

CMSD Teacher Todd LeVeck Runs for State Rep

"I want to represent you, not special interests or extreme agendas," promised Todd LeVeck, CMSD teacher and candidate for Ohio House of Representatives, District 16.

Mr. LeVeck, currently in his 16th year in the classroom, is a teacher and the athletic director at Max S. Hayes High School. He has served the CTU membership as chapter chair and delegate, delegate to the North Shore Federation of Labor, and is a past member of the CTU Executive Board. His service also includes eight years in the U.S. Navy.

"In my career as an educator and in the military, I've been successful by listening to the concerns of all, being open-minded to new ideas, and bringing people together to collaborate and find common ground," said Mr. LeVeck.

As a member of the Ohio House, he will support genuine education reform, end the over-emphasis on standardized

testing, and reinvest in fine arts, physical education, and career and technical education.

Among his other priorities are fighting for the rights of workers and for good-paying jobs, protecting seniors and homeowners by opposing unnecessary property tax increases, ending handouts to special interest groups, and bringing tax money home to support local schools and communities. By contrast, his opponent touted her understanding and representation of "those who sign the front of the check, not the back of the check," as the most important thing she brings to this seat.

The Ohio Federation of Teachers, the Cleveland Teachers Union, the Ohio Education Association, and the North Shore Federation of Labor have all endorsed Todd LeVeck. The OFT said that his election, along with several other teachers and union leaders who are running in various Ohio districts this

election, could make a significant positive difference for Ohio educators: "Putting someone with experience in both the union and the classroom in the Statehouse could change the outcome of laws and policies, to better appreciate and support your work [as public educators] as well as respect your voice on the job."

Mr. LeVeck was born in Cleveland. He and his wife

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WON'T RAISE TAXES

YES on Issue 4!

The CTU supports Issue 4, endorsing it at the September Executive Board Meeting and the Delegate Assembly. It's a win-win for Cleveland residents and the District.

The bond issue would help build 20-22 new schools, refurbish another 20-23 schools, and generate about \$2.5 million a year for maintaining CMSD schools, all **without raising taxes**.

The issue would extend the current bond issue originally passed by voters in 2001. **It would not increase taxes**, only continue the \$4 per month (per \$50,000 of property valuation) that taxpayers currently pay. The state of Ohio would contribute more than two dollars for every one dollar the District spends on new construction, a great rate of return for local Cleveland dollars. That means two-thirds of the cost of new CMSD schools would be paid for by state dollars.

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County Commissioner

Eliza Kazek, CTU Officer, in Race in Medina County

Elisa Kazek, 22-year CMSD teacher and long-time CTU leader, is running for Medina County Commissioner. She decided to get into the race because she felt that after years of one-party leadership, her county "needed some balance and a differing point of view regarding policy on the County Commission."

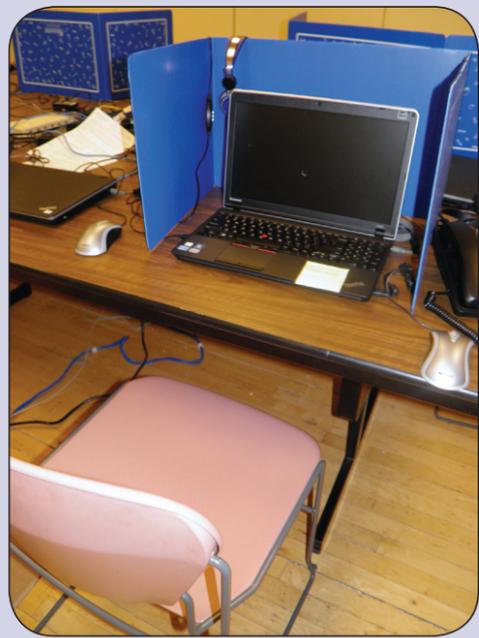


Mrs. Kazek is an art teacher at Marion C. Selzer and has been the CTU chapter chair for many years. She was recently appointed to serve on the CTU Executive Board as Legislative Chair.

"Medina is the fourth-wealthiest county in the state," she explained, "yet many of our citizens who are disabled and mentally challenged, and seniors who want to continue living in their homes, are facing serious cutbacks to vital services."

Mrs. Kazek disagrees with the current commissioners' favorable views of privatizing the public services that many citizens depend on. "We need to make common-sense decisions to spend our tax dollars more wisely and efficiently as a county, and move our county forward without hurting our most vulnerable citizens."

Mrs. Kazek and her husband are new "empty-nesters," with two children away in college. A strong union advocate, she would appreciate the support of her CTU brothers and sisters who live and vote in Medina County.



What's Wrong with This Picture?

There should never be an empty seat at the CTU phone bank! With thousands of members, these chairs should be filled every night with CTU educators, working for candidates who will support public education and working families.

Let's remember this November (and help fellow Ohioans remember) what's at stake in this election. In 2010, too many voters stayed home and didn't vote in the midterm elections. The subsequently-elected politicians won by small margins, but brought big agendas that work against public educators, labor, the middle class. You know what's happened since then in Ohio.

The CTU phone bank is open from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. There are snacks and prizes for volunteers. Contact the CTU office at 216-861-7676 to reserve a seat at the phone bank. And don't forget to check with your Chapter Chair for information about labor walks and other campaign activities that need your help.

This seat has your name on it. Do your part this election season to elect candidates who will work for working people.

Decorated Air Force Veteran

Connie Pillich Brings Bi-Partisan Outlook, Workers' Viewpoint to Treasurer's Race

In the race for State Treasurer, Ohioans have a great opportunity to elect a new State Treasurer who believes in transparency and stands up for working people. Connie Pillich, from the Cincinnati area, is a third-term Democrat who represents a district that is 56% Republican. In her last election victory, she defeated the leader of the local Tea Party. In the legislature, unlike her opponent, she earned a reputation as a bi-partisan problem solver. During her time in office, more than 76% of the bills she sponsored or co-sponsored received bi-partisan support.

As a legislator, Connie Pillich has always supported the working class. She fought to end tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas, and fought against attacks on Ohio workers' collective bargaining rights such as Senate Bill 5 and so-called Right-to-Work.



As a decorated Air Force veteran (three-time recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal), she strongly supports military families, and wrote legislation to make sure veterans are able to get the benefits they earned and find jobs in Ohio. She uses her military leadership skills to work with both parties to find successful solutions to prob-

lems. "In the Air Force, there was no Democratic or Republican way to get things done," she said. "There was just the right way. Delivering results on time and with efficiency was the priority. Unfortunately, that's not an approach we see very often in government. I'm working to change that."

She worked as a public defender and later opened her own law practice, where she fought for middle class families and communities. She took on predatory lenders on behalf of vulnerable senior citizens, and won an Ohio Supreme Court case that protected the rights of local landowners.

Connie Pillich knows hard work, not only as a wife and mother, but also by earning her way through college as she earned two degrees, a law degree and a Master's Degree in Business Administration, which makes Connie the most qualified candidate for State Treasurer.

Remember, the State Treasurer is responsible for Ohio's public pension funds (STRS and SERS). Unlike her opponent, Connie Pillich will always handle the state's retirement funds in the best interests of the retirees. Her commonsense approach to public service instead of special interests deserves your vote.

Todd LeVeck

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have three young children. His district covers the west side of Cuyahoga County, including Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River, and Westlake.

If you'd like to learn more about Todd LeVeck, volunteer for his campaign, or make a donation, go to www.levECKforohio.com, or call Todd at 216-544-6903.

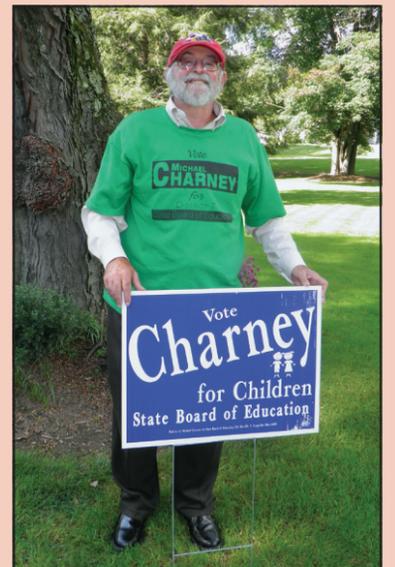
State Board of Ed Races Significant for Public Educators

Can you imagine working under the guidelines, decisions and policies of a State Board of Education that has zero members with any actual classroom experience?

That's what we are facing as Ohio educators, depending on the outcome of the races for State Board of Education members this November. The Ohio Board has 19 members. Eight are appointed by the Governor, so the only say educators have in those eight is by proxy, depending on whom we elect as Governor. Of the other 11 seats, voters in each Board district get to elect one member to the Board.

This fall, there are three outstanding OFT-endorsed candidates who are retired veteran Ohio public school teachers and union leaders, and have earned our support. One, Pat Bruns, is running in District 4 in Southwest Ohio in the Cincinnati area. Fortunately, the other two candidates are here in Northeast Ohio.

Michael Charney taught social studies for 30 years in CMSD schools. He was a long-time member of the CTU Executive Board and an OFT/AFT delegate for many years. A strong labor, public education, and social justice activist, he worked to advance teacher leadership, and develop programs that used the expertise of classroom teachers to improve teaching and learning. He is running in District 7 in Northeast Ohio, which includes Ashtabula, Geauga, Portage and Trumbull counties, and parts of Lake and Summit counties.



Roslyn Painter-Goffi spent 32 years as a teacher and librarian. She retired this past June after 22 years in the Berea Federation of Teachers, OFT Local #1699, where she served the last six years as its President. She was lauded nationally for her leadership in successful union-management collaboration and on-site access for educators to high-quality professional development opportunities. She is running in District 5 in Northwest Ohio, which includes Ashland, Medina, Richland and Wayne counties, and parts of Cuyahoga, Holmes, Stark and Summit counties.



Both of these candidates strongly support more regulation and accountability for charter schools. Mr. Charney's opponent is a homeschooler. Mrs. Painter-Goffi's opponent has no classroom experience. If you live in these Board districts, please help put Union teachers' voices on the Board and elect these outstanding educators.

If you don't vote in these Board districts, check the list of endorsed Board of Education candidates, and vote for teacher-friendly candidates who will work to listen to educators and make genuine improvements in Ohio's public education system.

Ohio Tax Credit

Support Ohio Candidates, Get \$ Back on Taxes

Did you know that you can make a political contribution to certain Ohio political candidates and get a tax credit back from the state of Ohio for your contribution? The maximum credit is \$50 for single or married separate filers, and \$100 for married filing joint returns, if both spouses made contributions of \$50 or more.

This applies to contributions made during the year to the campaign committee of candidates for any of the following Ohio offices: Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Secretary of State; Auditor of State; Treasurer of State; Attorney General; Ohio Board of Education; Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court; Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court; Ohio Senate; or Ohio House of Representatives.

Remember, **this is a tax credit, not a deduction**, so you get the entire \$50/\$100 back, dollar for dollar, on your Ohio income taxes the following year.

So if you expect to owe more than \$50 in Ohio state income taxes or over \$100 per couple, now is the perfect time to make a \$50/\$100 contribution to an endorsed candidate. It will reduce your tax bill by that amount when you file your 2014 Ohio state income taxes next spring.

It's like free money that you get back when you file your taxes — and it can help our candidates this fall. Make a contribution today!

ENDORSEMENTS

United States Congress

- FOR UNITED STATES CONGRESS, DISTRICT 6
Jennifer Garrison
- FOR UNITED STATES CONGRESS, DISTRICT 9
Marcy Kaptur
- FOR UNITED STATES CONGRESS, DISTRICT 11
Marcia Fudge
- FOR UNITED STATES CONGRESS, DISTRICT 13
Tim Ryan
- FOR UNITED STATES CONGRESS, DISTRICT 14
Michael Wager

Ohio Statewide Offices

- FOR OHIO GOVERNOR
Ed Fitzgerald
- FOR OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE
Nina Turner
- FOR OHIO AUDITOR
John Patrick Carney
- FOR OHIO TREASURER
Connie Pillich
- FOR OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL
David Pepper
- FOR OHIO SUPREME COURT
Tom Letson
- FOR OHIO SUPREME COURT
John O'Donnell

Ohio Senate

- DISTRICT 13, HURON AND LORAIN COUNTIES
Gayle Manning
- DISTRICT 21, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Sandra Williams
- DISTRICT 23, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Mike Skindell
- DISTRICT 25, CUYAHOGA AND LAKE COUNTIES
Kenny Yuko
- DISTRICT 29, STARK COUNTY
Scott Oelslager
- DISTRICT 33, MAHONING AND COLUMBIANA COUNTIES
Joe Schiavonni

Bond Issue

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The bond issue would have an estimated net economic impact of \$456.8 million in local and state funds. It would create hundreds of local construction jobs which would boost the local economy. The Cleveland Board of Education has prioritized jobs on the construction projects for Cleveland residents, minorities, women and small businesses.

Since the original bond issue was passed, CMSD has built or renovated 41 schools. Overseen by the independent Bond Accountability Commission, the construction money was spent prudently. The District even saved \$42.2 million by wisely refinancing and paying off its construction debt early. The same commission would continue to monitor the use of new bond funds.

Ohio House of Representatives

- DISTRICT 2, RICHLAND COUNTY
Don Bryant
- DISTRICT 6, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Anthony Fossaceca
- DISTRICT 8, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Kent Smith
- DISTRICT 9, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Janine Boyd
- DISTRICT 13, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Nickie Antonio
- DISTRICT 15, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Nicholas Celebrezze
- DISTRICT 16, CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Todd LeVeck
- DISTRICT 34, SUMMIT COUNTY
Emilia Sykes
- DISTRICT 36, SUMMIT COUNTY
Paula Prentice
- DISTRICT 37, SUMMIT COUNTY
David Worhatch
- DISTRICT 38, SUMMIT AND STARK COUNTIES
Tim Crawford
- DISTRICT 49, STARK COUNTY
Stephen Slesnick
- DISTRICT 55, LORAIN COUNTY
Brendan Mackin
- DISTRICT 57, HURON COUNTY
Matt Lark
- DISTRICT 58, MAHONING COUNTY
Michele Lepore-Hagan
- DISTRICT 59, MAHONING COUNTY
Ron Gerberry
- DISTRICT 60, LAKE COUNTY
John Rogers
- DISTRICT 61, LAKE COUNTY
Rick Walker
- DISTRICT 69, MEDINA COUNTY
Richard Javorek
- DISTRICT 75, PORTAGE COUNTY
Kathleen Clyde
- DISTRICT 87, SENECA, WYANDOT, CRAWFORD, MARION, MORROW COUNTIES
Jeffrey Lehart
- DISTRICT 88, SANDUSKY AND SENECA COUNTIES
Bill Young
- DISTRICT 89, ERIE AND OTTAWA COUNTIES
Chris Redfern
- DISTRICT 99, ASHTABULA AND GEauga COUNTIES
John Patterson

Cleveland voters are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this rare two-for-one funding opportunity from the state while it's still available. Vote YES on Issue 4, and help provide up-to-date, safe, quality schools and equipment for Cleveland students and staff.

Ohio Board of Education

- DISTRICT 2
Kim Redfern
- DISTRICT 5
Roslyn Painter-Goffi
- DISTRICT 7
Michael Charney
- DISTRICT 8
Bob Hagan

Additional CTU Endorsement Medina County

- MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONER
Eliza Kazek

Additional North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor Endorsements Cuyahoga County

- CUYAHOGA COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Armond Budish
- CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 9
Shontel Brown
- CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 10
Anthony Hairston
- CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 11
Sunny Simon

Cuyahoga County Judicial

- COURT OF APPEALS, 8TH DISTRICT
Anita Laster Mays
- COMMON PLEAS, TERM BEGINNING 1-5-15
Sherrie Miday
- COMMON PLEAS, TERM BEGINNING 1-10-15
Shannon Gallagher
- DOMESTIC RELATIONS, UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING 1-12-17
Francine Goldberg

Cuyahoga County Issues Tri-C Levy

- YES

CMSD Bond Issue

- YES, endorsed by CTU

President's Report

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workers, and benefit all Ohioans.

Third, we need your participation. As when we were fighting SB 5, it's not time to be shy. Come to the phone bank, attend a labor walk, participate in one of the many CTU-sponsored campaign activities. Contact Kurt Richards at 216-861-7676 x222 or krichards@ctu279.org for more information.

We can't leave this battle for others to fight on our behalf. If the same people who have been supporting policies that hurt workers get sent back to Columbus, the attacks on educators and workers will continue. We can't be surprised at what happens; we've seen it before. We must remember this November.



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY DAVID J. QUOLKE

We Remember This November

This is labor's theme as we approach the 2014 elections. As Union members and public educators, we need to internalize it, then act on it.

Do you need additional reminders of what's at stake? There's Senate Bill 5/Issue 2. House Bill 525 aka "The Cleveland Plan." Incessant high-stakes testing. Significant, dubiously effectual, punitive changes to teacher evaluations. Continuous test-and-punish "reform" efforts. Funding cuts to education and related services. Loss of critical tax dollars to questionable charter schools that function with little accountability or transparency, thanks to lax Ohio laws. Ongoing teacher- and union-bashing attacks from elected leaders. And right-to-work legislation, another union-busting tactic, looms on the horizon in Ohio.

Union leaders are concerned about a "lame-duck" effort in Columbus to pass right-to-work or other SB 5-type legislation after the November 4 election. Some other high-profile measures are pending in the Ohio legislature. With the current one-party rule in our statehouse and all major state offices, there are no checks and balances.

As a public educator, have you had enough?

The OFT's 2014 Election Guide, recently mailed to OFT members' homes, urged us to "vote your job." We know what's happened to public education in Ohio, and CMSD in particular, over the last several years. As professional public educators, we need to make that our priority when we vote this fall. We have an opportunity to elect people who will work to genuinely support and improve teaching and learning in our public schools.

Governor Kasich brought us SB 5, tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the richest Ohioans at the expense of the rest, and increased privatizing. Under this governor, charter school funding increased by 27%. Ohio charter schools now receive more money per pupil than traditional public schools, according to Innovation Ohio. Private school vouchers doubled under Governor Kasich. And even though traditional public

schools still have 90% of Ohio students, they receive \$515,000,000 less under this governor.

Ed FitzGerald's education plans include investment in early childhood, adequate funding of public education, charter school accountability, affordable college, and an end to the standardized testing obsession. He helped fight against SB 5 and is opposed to right-to-work laws.

One more thought: Ohio's governor makes eight appointments to the 19-member Ohio Board of Education, and also makes appointments to the boards that manage the state retirement funds.

All other top Ohio executive offices are currently held by the Republican majority. The OFT has endorsed the following outstanding opposing candidates whose election will bring a much-needed balance to Columbus.

Candidate for Secretary of State, **Nina Turner** is a strong supporter of public education and voters' rights, and will protect the right to vote for all Ohioans. She also actively fought to overturn SB 5. Her opponent has received over \$115,000 in campaign funds from charter school operators and associates, after he worked to expand charters and vouchers, and supported laws to increase charter school owners' profits even when their schools failed.

As Auditor, **John Patrick Carney** will have the authority to investigate how public money is being used in public schools, including for-profit charters. While in the Ohio House, he voted against SB 5 and campaigned against it. Carney called out the current auditor, who failed to stop the ongoing misuse of public tax dollars in some Ohio charter schools even after audits found potential problems, some leading to FBI raids and federal investigations.

Connie Pillich, candidate for Treasurer, is an Air Force veteran, daughter of a teacher, and was an opponent of SB 5. She opposes right-to-work laws and expanding vouchers. In Ohio, the Treasurer decides which financial institutions have custody of the state's pension funds, and therefore, what "custodial fees" are paid to the institutions to manage these funds. Some of

Ohio's pension funds have been moved to costlier institutions because they are donors to the current Treasurer. Connie Pillich has pledged to select the custodial institutions based on costs, security, and benefits to pension members, not her campaign fund. The Treasurer also makes appointments to the boards that manage our state pension funds (STRS, SERS, PERS).

David Pepper, candidate for Attorney General, testified against SB 5 and worked on the We Are Ohio campaign to defeat it. He is a strong supporter of workers' rights. As Attorney General, he will form a Taxpayer Protection Unit to recover misspent taxpayer funds, including those owed by failed charter school operators. Currently, failed charter school operators owe \$30 million to the state of Ohio, which his opponent has failed to collect. In addition, his opponent dropped out of a key case before the Ohio Supreme Court concerning public funds spent on equipment for charter schools, failing again to protect our tax dollars. David Pepper also believes school safety should be a top priority for the Attorney General, and will work to increase personnel, resources, training, and cooperation with local law enforcement.

In Ohio House and Senate races, there are many exemplary candidates who earned the OFT endorsement

by demonstrating their intentions to improve Ohio for all citizens. One of our own CTU members, **Todd LeVeck**, is a candidate in House District 16 (western Cuyahoga County). Todd teaches at Max Hayes, and is a Navy veteran. He is a past member of the CTU Executive Board, served as CTU Chapter Chair and Delegate, and was a delegate to the North Shore Federation of Labor. He certainly understands the concerns of public educators and working families, and will represent them well.

There are many fine candidates who will bring a much-needed balance to the statehouse. We must reward candidates from any party who have stood up for public education by giving them our votes, and send the others home. Please check the endorsement list and support your endorsed candidate when you vote.

Another current CTU member, **Elisa Kazek**, is running for Medina County Commissioner and has the CTU's endorsement. She is an art teacher, the long-time chapter chairperson from



Marion C. Selzer, and serves on the CTU Executive Board as Legislative Chair.

Here's a sad fact about Ohio's current educational leadership: did you know that depending on the results of this election, the Ohio Board of Education — comprised of 19 members, 11 elected and 8 appointed — could end up with no member with any teaching experience? We must make sure that doesn't happen. Two candidates in Northeast Ohio are former teachers and Union leaders, and have earned our support.

Michael Charney, District 7, is a retired 30-year CMSD teacher and was a member of the CTU Executive Board for years. He organized many projects to improve teaching and learning, focusing on teacher leadership, and was named National Teacher of the Year by the AFT in 1996. His opponent is a homeschooler with no association with the public schools.

Roslyn Painter-Goffi, District 5, is a just-retired 32-year teacher and librarian, spending the last 22 years in Berea schools. She was the President of the Berea Federation of Teachers, OFT Local #1699, for

the past 6 years. Under her leadership, she worked to develop high-quality, on-site professional development opportunities and nationally-recognized union-management collaboration. Her opponents have no classroom experience.

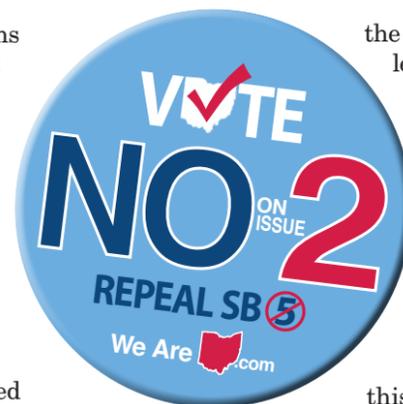
You've probably heard this quote: "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." We can't expect things to change for the better in Ohio if we re-elect the same leadership to power.

And we can't make those changes without your help.

First, we need you to vote, and vote for our endorsed candidates.

Second, we need you to do what you do best: educate. Educate your family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances, those at your place of worship and in your clubs and other groups, about the importance of this election, and encourage them to vote for candidates who will support the rights of

We Remember SB5



the past 6 years. Under her leadership, she worked to develop high-quality, on-site professional development opportunities and nationally-recognized union-management collaboration. Her opponents have no classroom experience.

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