

The Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce Presents:



Westerville Candidate Guide 2025



Wed. Sept. 3, 2025

Westerville Board of Education
Westerville Public Library

Thurs. Sept. 4, 2025

Westerville City Council
Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris

Welcome



On behalf of the Board of the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce and our Business Advocacy Council, welcome to the 2025 Candidate Forums!

Your presence today reflects a commitment to being an informed voter — someone who understands that the choices made on November 4 will shape the future of our city and our schools for years to come.

These forums are designed to give you meaningful insight into the candidates running for City Council

and the Board of Education. By hearing directly from those seeking to serve, you're helping to ensure that Westerville's leadership reflects the values and priorities of our community.

This longstanding Chamber tradition provides an intimate forum for both Chamber Members and community residents to convene and engage with Westerville's future leadership. It's this type of collaboration and community spirit that the Westerville Area Chamber seeks to foster. We thank you for your interest and taking part this evening.

This Candidate Guide complements the forums by providing additional information about each candidate, helping you make informed decisions in this important election for the Westerville community. Remember, every vote counts. Thank you in advance for exercising your right to vote.

Janet Tressler-Davis, President & CEO

Thank you to our sponsors!



Special thanks to Janis and Zack Mitchell, Brian Reed, Ashley Fellers, Brandon Lawson, Parent Council, and Otterbein students for volunteering.

Agenda

Welcome

Janet Tressler-Davis

President & CEO, Westerville Area Chamber

Candidate Q&A

Moderated by John Comerford & Mindy Drayer respectively

Candidate Closing Remarks

Each candidate has 2 minutes for closing remarks

Session Ends

Moderators



John Comerford, Otterbein University

(Wednesday, Board of Education Forum)

Dr. John Comerford is the president of Otterbein University and a vocal advocate for access, affordability, and innovation in higher education. Under his leadership, Otterbein established a scholarship that covers full tuition for Ohio students from families with financial need; created a fund to invest in crowdsourced ideas from the University community that would immediately grow enrollment or revenue; and designed a four-year

career and professional preparation curriculum guided by trained advisors and mentors so Otterbein graduates are workforce-ready.

Comerford also serves as president of the Coalition for the Common Good – a higher education system of private, independent nonprofit colleges and universities founded by Otterbein and Antioch universities to improve equity in education through expanding graduate programs, workforce development, and degree completion. He is a board member of the Columbus Council on World Affairs, Delaware County Finance Authority, Educational & Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Ohio, and Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges.

Moderators, Continued



Mindy Drayer, Author, TV and Radio Host

(Thursday, City Council Forum)

Mindy Drayer has spent her entire career talking! It all started in 1991 when she graduated from Ohio State with a communications degree. From there, she worked as a television anchor/reporter in Delaware, Lima, Youngstown, and Columbus, Ohio. After nearly 35 years in the broadcasting business, Mindy is still doing what she loves by co-hosting two different radio shows on 610 WTVN and anchoring the news on Spectrum News1.

She's also the author of three books (*Guylo*, *The King*, and *Dear Mom*). Mindy moved to Westerville when she was just four years old and has called it home ever since.

Throughout her career, Mindy has thoroughly enjoyed meeting and interviewing people of all ages and all walks of life. She has always believed that everyone has a story, and Mindy is just happy that she still has radio and TV opportunities to share those stories on the air.

Candidates: Board of Education



Tatjana Brown

Tatjana Brown, a Westerville parent of three and small business owner, is a passionate advocate for strong public schools. With degrees in business and marketing, she brings over 20 years of experience in leadership, budgeting, and community engagement. Tatjana is committed to supporting teachers, prioritizing student mental health, and ensuring equitable access to quality education across all neighborhoods. As a long-time resident and small business owner, she understands the challenges and opportunities facing the district and will work to maintain transparency, fiscal responsibility, and collaboration between schools, families, and the community to help every student thrive.

Email: tatjanabrownforwcsb@gmail.com

Facebook: Tatjana Brown for Westerville City Schools Board of Education

Instagram: [tatjanabrownforwcsboe](https://www.instagram.com/tatjanabrownforwcsboe)

Candidates: Board of Education



Nafiso Jamale

A Voice for Families. A Champion for Students. Nafiso Jamale is a social worker, mental health advocate, proud Westerville alumna, and mother of two students in the district. She combines professional expertise with personal experience to strengthen schools, families, and community connections. Nafiso currently serves as Vice President of Outreach for her daughter's school PTA, a role that has deepened her insight into the needs of students and parents. She also serves on the Westerville Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, is active in DEI initiatives, and represents Ward 4 on the Franklin County Central Committee.

Email: jamalenafiso@gmail.com

Website: <https://njamale.com/>

Facebook: Nafiso m Jamale



Anisa Liban

Anisa Liban, a 2025 YWCA Woman on the Rise, is a dedicated advocate for women and families, especially within Ohio's immigrant and refugee communities. A Columbus native, she has held significant roles at Columbus City Council and the Ohio State Legislature, and now consults for non-profits across central Ohio. In 2024, Anisa made history as the first Somali woman on the Westerville City Schools Board of Education, where she champions policies that support families and enhance educational opportunities. Currently serving as Vice President of the Board, she is running to secure her position for another term and continue her impactful work.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Anisa-Liban-for-Westerville-City-Schools/61574730226822/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/anisaforall/>

Candidates: Board of Education

Kristy Meyer



Kristy Meyer, a WCS graduate, and proud parent, is seeking re-election to the WCS Board of Education. Since 2021, she has worked with board members, staff, and families to expand counseling services, strengthen supports for special education and English learners, launch a pre-apprenticeship program, invest in social-emotional learning, and more. In her next term, she's committed to advancing student-centered programs that prepare students for success in life, providing educators with the resources they need, fostering safe and welcoming schools, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are invested wisely, reflecting what's best for students. Kristy's experienced, student-focused leadership will keep Westerville schools strong.

Email: Meyer4OurFuture@gmail.com

Website: www.KristyMeyer.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Meyer4OurFuture

Instagram: www.instagram.com/meyerforwestervilleschoolboard/

Mark Stevens: Has withdrawn his candidacy



~~As a public-school teacher for 35 years, Mark Stevens recently retired (May 2025) from Westerville City Schools as a music educator. Mark earned his Bachelors degree at Bowling Green State University, a Masters of Music from Case Western Reserve/Cleveland Institute of Music, and an Educational Administration degree from the University of Dayton.~~

~~I offer a grounded and practical perspective of national, state, and local mandates. As a former teacher, I have direct experience with these policies and insight into their impact on educators and students. Our schools need board members who understand the system and are not afraid to make informed decisions.~~

Email: mstevensforsb2025@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.mark-stevens-for-westerville-school-board.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577755420885>

Candidates: City Council



Daniela Beckett

Daniela Beckett is a proud Colombian immigrant, small business manager, and mom running for Westerville City Council. She is committed to safe neighborhoods, affordability, and people-first leadership. With experience managing budgets and teams, Daniela understands the importance of fiscal responsibility while investing in what matters most: families, local businesses, and community safety. She believes Westerville deserves transparent, common-sense leadership that puts people first. Daniela is dedicated to ensuring Westerville remains a safe, affordable, and welcoming place for all residents, while planning responsibly for growth and preserving the strong community values that make Westerville unique.

Email: danielabeckettforwesterville@gmail.com

Website: www.danielabeckett.com

Facebook: Daniela Beckett for Westerville City Council



Coutanya Coombs

Coutanya Coombs is an accomplished leader, public servant, and community advocate with a proven record of advancing equity, fostering collaboration, and driving results. Serving on Westerville City Council, she has championed initiatives like safety, economic vitality, and inclusive engagement.

Dr. Coombs brings a blend of academic expertise and practical leadership to her role, leveraging data-driven analysis, stakeholder collaboration, and strategic problem-solving to address community needs including housing and transportation. She supports police and fire services with funding for gear, training, and competitive wages, while prioritizing transparency in city finances and fostering partnerships. Dr. Coombs is recognized for her integrity, thoughtful decision-making, and commitment to her work.

Email: Coutanya.Coombs@westerville.org

Website: coombs4westerville.com

Candidates: City Council



Matt Erney

I am running for Westerville City Council to unite our community and keep divisive national politics out of the spotlight. For 15 years I have built my business, raised my family, and invested my life here. As a father of four, I will champion families, support parents, and protect the traditions and freedoms that make Westerville strong. I will support our safety services, revitalize our parks and Uptown, and help local small businesses thrive. My leadership will emphasize open dialogue, accessibility, and practical nonpartisan governance so Westerville remains a safe, welcoming, and thriving community for generations to come.

Email: friendsoferney@gmail.com

Website: <https://MattErney.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsoferney>



Mark Faubel

My name is Mark Faubel and I have been a part of the Westerville community since October 2000. I am a husband, father, and business owner all within the borders of our great city. My professional history has focused on serving clients in the financial sector including banking, investing, financial planning, and tax services. My community service to Westerville ranges from multiple boards where I am usually voluntold to be the treasurer to event planning committees to sponsorships. At some point my prior service has likely touched you and I hope to continue my service to Westerville as City Council.

Email: mark@faubelforwesterville.com

Website: faubelforwesterville.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FaubelforWesterville>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/faubelfortheville/>

Candidates: City Council



John Gatiss

John Gatiss is a Democrat running for Westerville City Council and has lived in Westerville for 20 years. He is a biochemist, pharmacist, and editor with over 20 years of experience in scientific and medical communications. John is also an activist and advocate fighting for healthcare, voting rights, fair districts, and equality. He was a driving force behind the passage of Westerville's nondiscrimination ordinance. As such, John has attended more council meetings than several current members of council. He is running to bring his activism and advocacy to council to fight for residents, transparency, and a better future for Westerville.

Email: info@gatissforwesterville.com

Website: <https://www.gatissforwesterville.com>

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/gatissforwesterville.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GatissForWesterville>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/GatissForWesterville>



Aaron Glasgow

I have had the privilege of serving on City Council and the City's Planning Commission since February 2024. As a practicing attorney with over 20 years' experience representing local governments, I bring firsthand insight into the challenges and opportunities cities like ours face. As a lifelong resident my platform is simple: support public safety departments, strengthen essential city services, and encourage smart economic development to ensure Westerville remains a vibrant, unique, and welcoming community. After growing up in the Annehurst neighborhood, I now reside in Olde Mill with my wife, Jennifer, our three children, and two spoiled dogs.

Email: glasgowforcouncil2023@gmail.com

Website: aaronglasgow.com

Facebook: Aaron Glasgow for Westerville City Council

Instagram: [instagram.com/aaron_glasgow_for_council](https://www.instagram.com/aaron_glasgow_for_council)

Candidates: City Council



Megan Reamsnyder

Megan Reamsnyder is a lifelong Westerville resident, current Vice Chair of City Council, and a dedicated community advocate. With a background in social work and a professional role at Otterbein University, she brings a unique blend of compassion, strategy, and collaboration to public service. Her leadership spans years of volunteerism, non-profit board service, and civic engagement—from organizing the 4th of July Parade to founding initiatives like The Big Bus. Megan is known for showing up prepared, listening to residents, and putting community first. She's running for re-election to continue building a connected, inclusive, and thriving Westerville for all.

Email: Megan.Reamsnyder@westerville.org

Website: MeganReamsnyder.com

Facebook/Instagram: [WestervillewithMegan](#)



Preston Stapleton

My name is Preston Stapleton, and I am running for Westerville City Council. I came to Westerville in 1994 to attend Otterbein College. I am married and have 3 daughters, two attending college this fall and one daughter in middle school. All 3 have attended Westerville City Schools. I work in the heart of Uptown and have loved Westerville since I first moved here. I love the community and would love to make a positive impact as a council member.

Email: preston4westerville@gmail.com

Facebook: [@preston4westerville](#)

Candidates: City Council



Kelley Stocker

I'm a 12-year social studies teacher, a parent of a curious and energetic 6-year-old, and an active community leader. I serve on the Westerville Planning Commission, the executive board of the Ohio Council for the Social Studies, and as a faculty representative for the Westerville Education Association. My campaign is grounded in three core values: Preserving Our Character by maintaining Westerville's unique charm and green spaces; Protecting Our Community through strong public services and responsible development; and Pushing for Progress by promoting transparency, sustainability, and civic engagement.

Email: stockerforcouncil@gmail.com

Website: www.kelleystocker.com

Facebook: Kelley For Council Facebook

Business Advocacy Council

The Business Advocacy Council of the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to reviewing, developing, and supporting issues and candidates that promote a positive, proactive business environment. The Chamber believes that candidates, laws, and regulation should serve the public without acting as a detriment to business development and growth.

The issues examined through our Business Advocacy agenda are issues raised by the Chamber's membership through survey results and/or the Chamber Board of Trustees. We also respond to issues and/or concerns raised by members.

Our purpose is to work with our elected officials to ensure regulations and policies will positively affect the ability of a business to compete in the worldwide economy, and to contribute to generate income and jobs that will further strengthen the positive business climate for area businesses to thrive.

Our City and Schools

Westerville City Council consists of seven at-large members elected to four-year overlapping terms in non-partisan elections. Municipal elections are held in odd-numbered years, with four seats filled in one election and three seats filled in the next election. Westerville City Council represents the residents of the City and are the only elected officials, according to the City Charter. As Westerville's legislative body, City Council sets policy, establishes goals, and approves and oversees the City's annual budget. The City Manager manages the day-to-day Westerville operations and reports to City Council. Westerville's phenomenal residential and corporate growth has been comfortably balanced within this form of government. ***This year, City Council has nine (9) candidates running for four (4) open seats.***

The **Westerville City Schools Board of Education** endeavors to provide all students maximum educational opportunities within the constraints of available facilities, financial resources, legal requirements, and citizen involvement. It is the Board's responsibility to encourage the development of each student's ability to contribute in a democratic, free enterprise, and technological society. ***This year, the Board of Education has five (5) candidates running for three (3) open seats.***

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18 Westerview Drive
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