

Municipalities ask voters to OK safety funding

Officials say tax support necessary for local police, fire departments

By MIKE JONES
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Several local governments are going to voters Tuesday asking for tax support for fire and police departments.

Swanton is seeking a 0.5 percent increase in its municipal income tax which, if passed, will be earmarked for the police department.

The department needs to add about three policemen to equal the manpower of jurisdictions of Swanton's size, Police Chief Homer Chapa said. As the city continues to grow, it is important that its safety forces keep pace, he added.

The city income tax is now 1.25 percent, and the sought-after increase would raise about \$440,000 annually. It has been about 15 years since there was an

increase in the city income tax.

Oregon is asking voters to approve a five-year, 0.5-mill property tax renewal to help fund new equipment and salaries for the police department.

Police Chief Tom Gulch said the levy was originally passed to hire more officers, and has since helped offset officers' salaries. Without a renewal, the chief said, other cuts might be necessary to keep police manpower at its current level.

The levy generates \$142,500 annually and costs the owner of a \$100,000 house about \$3 per year.

Jerusalem Township trustees are asking voters to approve a five-year, 5-mill renewal levy for equipment and operating expenses for the fire department.

If approved it will generate \$222,000 per year and cost the



THE BLADE/LORI KING

Swanton is seeking a 0.5 percent increase in the municipal income tax earmarked for police.

owner of a \$100,000 house about \$95 a year.

Harding Township is seeking a 1.5-mill replacement levy for contracting for rescue services.

Waterville Township voters will consider a 1.9-mill replacement levy for police salaries and equipment. If passed, it will cost the owner of a \$100,000 house

about \$58 per year.

Middleton Township in Wood County is seeking approval of a 0.3-mill, 5-year replacement levy for fire equipment. The current

levy has been in place for more than 25 years. The renewal is expected to cost the owner of a \$100,000 house \$9.19 annually.

Royalton Township in Fulton County which includes Lyons, voters will decide on a 1.8-mill, five-year replacement levy for fire protection.

Clinton Township voters in Fulton County, including those in Wauseon, are being asked to approve a 1.15-mill, five-year levy for the purchase of an \$850,000 fire truck with a 100-foot ladder.

The truck would allow firefighters to reach the roof of the Fulton County Health Center, which they cannot do with current equipment.

The measure would raise almost \$200,000 a year and cost about \$35 annually to the owner of a \$100,000 house.

Amboy Township residents in Fulton County will vote on a 1-mill, five-year levy renewal for fire and rescue services. The township includes residents of Metamora.

Pike Township fire and rescue officials are seeking a replacement 0.5-mill, five-year levy which will collect about \$16,200 each year, compared to the current levy which raises \$13,700.

The township is anticipating more fire and rescue calls because the Ohio Turnpike Commission has proposed construction of service plazas in the township.

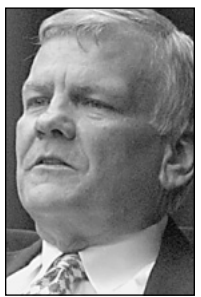
TOLEDO MUNICIPAL COURT



Christiansen



Nugent



Pilrose



Kuhlman



Hicks-Hudson



Schaefer



Santiago

OREGON MUNICIPAL



Breier



Kadri



Keller



Kovacs

SYLVANIA MUNICIPAL



Nusraum



Ramey

Judicial hopefuls await public verdict

Voters will decide the election of judges in municipal courts in Toledo, Oregon, and Sylvania.

Three of seven seats in **Toledo Municipal Court** are being contested in Tuesday's election. Judges Francis Gorman and C. Allen McConnell are unopposed.

Judge Robert Christiansen, Samuel Nugent, and Dan Pilrose are competing to replace Judge Mary Grace Trimboli, who is retiring at the end of the year.

Mr. Christiansen stepped down from Lucas County Common Pleas Court last year to run for the appellate court. He was on the bench for 22 years.

Mr. Pilrose has practiced law as an assistant prosecutor in Toledo Municipal Court for 18 years.

Mr. Nugent, a lawyer for 29 years, is a senior attorney in the Toledo law department.

Timothy Kuhlman, who was appointed to municipal court in February, is being challenged by Paula Hicks-Hudson.

An attorney with the city of Toledo, Ms. Hicks-Hudson, is running for office for the first time.

Mr. Kuhlman, who is making

his fourth attempt to get elected judge, was an attorney in private practice before the appointment.

Lynn Schaefer and Lourdes Santiago square off for the unexpired term of Judge Thomas Osowik, who was elected to Lucas County Common Pleas last year. Ms. Schaefer was appointed to the fill the seat in March.

Ms. Santiago is an attorney in the city law department and has been acting director of several departments.

Ms. Schaefer was a trial referee in Lucas County Domestic Relations Court. She was appointed to a vacancy in Juvenile Court in 2004, but lost the election to retain the post.

Four attorneys are seeking election to **Oregon Toledo Municipal** to replace retiring Judge Donald Petroff.

Gary Breier, Cherrefe Kadri, Jeffrey Keller, and Louis Kovacs are running for the office.

An attorney for 27 years, Mr. Breier is in private practice in Oregon.

Ms. Kadri, who is an attorney in Toledo, has served as an acting judge in Oregon since 2003.



THE BLADE/JETTA FRASER

Candidates for Toledo Municipal Court listen to the proceedings during a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters at the University of Toledo's college of law.

Mr. Keller has served as a magistrate in Northwood Mayor's Court and in the village of Berkey.

Mr. Kovacs, of Jerusalem Township, works for a Toledo law firm and has been an acting judge in Oregon since April.

In **Sylvania**, lawyer James Nusraum is challenging Judge

M. Scott Ramey, who has been on the bench in municipal court for 17 years.

Mr. Nusraum is president of the Sylvania Board of Education.

The court has jurisdiction over Sylvania Township, part of Springfield Township, Berkey, and other areas in western Lucas County.

Races for mayor, council to be largely decided on Tuesday

By ERIKA RAY
BLADE STAFF WRITER

With a few exceptions, northwest Ohio city and village council races resemble games of musical chairs, with one more candidate than seats available.

Perrysburg voters will also decide who they want as their mayor for the next four years. The September primary election whittled the field for mayor of the Wood County city from four candidates to two — retired Perrysburg Police Chief Nelson Evans, 51, and Councilman Thomas Mackin, 40.

Former Councilman Kim Klewer finished a distant third, and Jonathan Orser, an ex-mayor and councilman, was last among the four primary candidates.

As for the city council, three incumbents are up for re-election with three political newcomers challenging their seats.

Incumbents Maria Ernie and John Kevern, who are finishing their first four-year terms, and Joe Lawless, who has been on council for eight years, are up

against challengers Matthew Hawkins, Michael Olmstead, and John Strouse.

In Lucas County, all seven **Oregon** City Council seats are up for grabs, and six incumbents will be running against five challengers. Councilman Jeff Keller is not seeking re-election because he filed petitions to run for Oregon Municipal Court judge.

Jerry Peach, council's senior member with nine terms, seeks another term along with Sharon Graffeo-Rudess, James Seaman, Michael Seferian, Michael Sheehy, and Matthew Zollosi.

"There's always unfinished business," Mr. Peach said.

They're being challenged by former Oregon councilman and former city finance director Sandy Bihn, former Oregon recreation director Doug Joyce, former councilman Steven Kusian, former Oregon volunteer firefighter Marvin Belknap, Jr., and resident Paul Lambrecht.

Elsewhere in the county, **Mauve** City Council will have at least one new face when voters

choose four people from six candidates — half of whom are incumbents. Councilman Thomas Shook did not file petitions to run for another term.

The incumbents include Michael Coyle, with four years experience; Brent Buehrer, with eight years, and Richard Carr, with 12 years. The challengers are Timothy Pauken, David Westrick, and Maria Zapiecki.

In **Sylvania**, five candidates have filed petitions to run for three city council seats, including three incumbents seeking re-election.

Incumbents Read Backus, the dean of council with 34 years; Todd Milner, and Barbara Sears are running against David Berland and Mark Bula.

Three seats are up for grabs on **Waterville Village Council**, with all three incumbents seeking re-election against 19-year-old challenger Derek Merrin.

Norm Witzler, with 12 years experience, is running for re-election along with six-year council member Ann Cherry and four-

year member Lori Brodie.

In Wood County, four incumbents are running against one challenger for **Northwood City Council**. Incumbent Michael Myers and veteran councilmen James Barton, David Gallaher, and Connie Hughes — who have all been on council since 1993 — are running for re-election against Randy Kozina, a 14-year school board member.

Three incumbents are running against two newcomers for four seats in the Rossford, Grand Rapids, and Millbury council races.

Long-time councilman Molly Jakubec did not seek re-election for **Rosford City Council**, leaving incumbents James Richards, Richard Kovach, and Caroline Zuchowski-Eckel running against challengers Leonard Michaels and Pamela Simenski.

The **Grand Rapids Village Council** race pits incumbents John Berry, Louise Estep, and Pam Sherwood against newcomers Carolyn Erdody and Patricia Snyder.

Incumbents running for

re-election on **Millbury Village Council** are Fred Densic, Chalence Wilburn II, and Michael Weis. Challengers are Christopher Abbey and Randal Readell.

Elsewhere in Wood County, councilmen Gary Brann and Brandon Donaldson resigned from **Pemberville Village Council** in the last two months, and Cheryl Sharp is not seeking re-election.

Though Mr. Donaldson's name will most likely be on the ballot, he said he planned to ask the board of elections to remove it, leaving one incumbent and five challengers running for four vacant seats.

Incumbent Patricia Vandersall will be running against Eric Campbell, Keith Madaras, David Miesmer, and Marc Mullholand.

"I knew we needed somebody to carry on and continue with some of the programs we had going," Ms. Vandersall said. "If I win, I win. If I lose, I lose. I just take it however the people vote."

In Ottawa County, Genoa and Elmore village councils each

Township board posts up for grabs

1 incumbent bows out of Sylvania Twp.

BLADE STAFF

The board of **Sylvania Township** trustees will have different makeup next year, no matter the outcome of Tuesday's election, because one of the incumbents has decided not to run.

Jim Schwerkoske said the press of his business interests caused him to decide against seeking re-election. One incumbent, Dennis Boyle, trustee chairman, seeks re-election and six other township residents are also candidates for the two open seats on the township board.

The challengers are Kevin Haddad, a small business owner; Pam Hanley, a real estate agent; John Jennewine, a district manager for an insurance company; DeeDee Liedle, an attorney and certified public accountant; R. Jeffrey Lydy, an attorney and former member of the Sylvania Board of Education, and developer Dick Moses, an ex-township trustee.

In **Springfield Township**, five candidates seek two seats. Bob Bethel, employee relations manager at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, seeks re-election as does Marilyn Yoder. Challengers are Kevin Cummings, Henry Schuster, and Thomas Anderson, a retiree who is a write-in candidate.

Waterville Township has five candidates for two posts on the board of township trustees. Incumbent Timothy Pedro is joined by Tony Urbas, Lynne Myerholtz, Brett Warner, and Kyle Hertzfeld.

Perrysburg Township voters have four candidates running for two trustee positions. Incumbents Barb Gunn and Bob Mack seek second four-year terms and are challenged by Gary Britten and Cindy Patterson.

In **Washington Township**, two incumbents and two others are running for two trustee seats. Barbara Shaheen, trustee chairman, and Denise Rex seek re-election. Also running are Linda Vaughn and George Plasencio.

In **Monclova Township**, two trustees are running for re-election, and Gary Kuns, a trustee for 20 years who was defeated two years ago is again seeking a seat

on the board. Incumbents Keith Trettin and Brian Craig seek to retain their positions.

In **Richfield Township**, eight residents are running for two positions of township trustee.

Running for election are Gregory Bettinger, Steve Bettinger, Scott Good, Tom Huff, Michael Morrin, Arthur Nevers, Ron Smith, and Karen Winn.

Five candidates will be on the ballot for **Spencer Township** trustee. Each is running for one of two spots. Candidates are Michael Hood, Bob Klumm, Curtis Lancaster, Jodi Staton, and Michael Varanese.

In **Jerusalem Township**, incumbent Joseph Gray is seeking re-election and three others are running for the two posts on the board. The others running for a four-year term are Rodney Graffis, Marvin Bill Hoops, and James Wolfe.

In **Swanton Township**, five candidates are running for two seats on the board of trustees. They are Sandy Komisarek, Dennis Tippie, Jim Irmen, Edward Snyder, and John Warkentin.

Two residents are challenging incumbents in the race for **Providence Township** trustee.

Neil Hefflinger has served more than 15 years and Greg Ludwig is running for his fourth term. Challengers are Lance Martin, an ex-police chief in Waterville and Walbridge, and Steve Kendall, head of the zoning commission.

In **Lake Township**, voters will choose from four candidates, two of whom are incumbents, to fill two seats on the board of trustees. Incumbents Ron Sims and Richard Welling are challenged by Michael Adkins and Glenn Bowman, Jr.

Two **Grand Rapids Township** trustees are being challenged by Les Heyman and George Limes. Also running are Eric Flora and George Fooks.

Three seek two seats on the **Harding Township** board of trustees. Seeking four-year terms are Kristene Ragan, Milton Keener, and Doyle Drennan.

—Mike Jones