



# VOTER REPORT

## Candidates Respond to Important Questions Impacting Local Businesses

The Findlay•Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Advisory Board invited the candidates running for **Findlay City Council-At-Large and First Ward** seats 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 are stopped at 175 words.

### Findlay City Council-At-Large

#### Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?



**Holly Frische (Candidate):** Growing up in Findlay, I was fortunate to be surrounded by very passionate community leaders that put Findlay first and I saw how teamwork was the key to our success. I think it is safe to say that passion for the community rubbed off on me. Over the years, I have showed my dedication to the community serving as Councilwoman from 2014-2019, being involved in my children's school, serving on the Findlay Hancock Co Crime Prevention Board, supporting non-profits like Cancer Patient Service Chili Cook Off and working for the Republican Party supporting local, state and national candidates. Over the holidays I was approached by many individuals and asked to return to city council to be a voice for the community. After much consideration, I made the decision to step up and run for Council at Large and I am asking for your vote.



**Randy Greeno (Candidate):** My motivation in seeking public office has not changed since successfully running for the 5th Ward Council seat two years ago. I desire to see that my hometown continues to thrive. I feel it's important that elected officials are accountable to the citizens by representing them wisely and with integrity. With the experience I gained over the 34 years of my employment with the City of Findlay and the recent years on City Council, I feel I am an excellent candidate for the At Large seat. I have been asked many times why I wanted to get involved in politics. My response is always that I continue to have the desire to serve the citizens of Findlay. I want to make our community an even better place to live, raise families and conduct business. I believe that's the only reason that anyone should get involved in politics.



**Grant C. Russel (Incumbent):** My motivation has not changed since I first ran for office: a desire to serve my community. Citizens must run for office and, if elected, work hard in service to their constituents for our democracy to thrive. I see my service on City Council, in part, as me performing my civic duty. This year, with a new Service Safety Director soon to be in place, I thought it even more important that I continue to serve, providing continuity and positive leadership on Council. The Murn administration is doing an outstanding job building on the successes of the Mihalik administration. Part of that success is attributable to the good working relationship between the administration and council. As a team player, one not looking for headlines, I will continue to be a positive influence on council, working with the administration, the city workforce and all community partners. I am a single-issue candidate, and that issue is Findlay. If it is good for Findlay, then I support it and will work hard to make it happen.



**Jeffrey D. Wobser (Incumbent):** I believe that our city thrives only because good people continue to step up to fill the elected and appointed positions in our government. Having been born and raised in Findlay, I have a desire to make sure that Findlay remains a beautiful place to live, work and raise a family. The City of Findlay gave me a lot of opportunities when I was growing up. My goal is to see that the city can continue to provide those opportunities for the next generation of children.

**Q. Should you win in May, what are your priorities and how do you recommend we address them as a community?**



**Holly Frische (Candidate):** I believe in doing our best for all citizens in the community. Strengthening communication between city government, the citizens and businesses is more important than ever because we must be preparing our community for the future. In 2017 Council formed a committee to develop a strategic plan but that plan has not come to fruition. I feel it is more important than ever for council to bring businesses, individuals, government, schools, hospitals and public safety agencies to the table to implement a strategic plan that gives direction to grow economic development, preserve our quality of life and secure the future of Findlay.



**Randy Greeno (Candidate):** Priorities are difficult to set as there are many issues that face our community as we strive to keep Findlay the outstanding city that it is. These priorities fluctuate throughout time and can be dependent on funding availability and economic difficulties. City Council should strive to maintain and improve the infrastructure not only in regard to roadways but also the water and sewer systems, park areas and areas of public access as well as support the flood mitigation efforts and maintain city services at or above the current level. Looking to the future needs of the community while also preparing for government regulations present and future is critical. The City should always be in a position that strikes a balance between expansion of existing businesses and the work force while attracting new business and industry. The cooperation between local government entities is critical in this endeavor. Flag City is fortunate to have the winning formula in regard to development.



**Grant C. Russel (Incumbent):** My priorities have also not changed since I first ran for office. The city must continue to:

- Provide well-maintained infrastructure – roads, alleys, water and sewer systems, parks and other recreational infrastructure.
- Provide quality, cost effective safety services – police, fire and courts. The City has a proven track record of delivering excellent safety services while maintaining outstanding infrastructure. This winter we had one of the largest snowstorms in a decade, yet when most woke up in the morning, all the streets were plowed, and citizens could get to work and school. This does not happen by accident; it is the result of having the right people working with the right equipment and working the right plan. It is not sexy. It does not make headlines. And that is a good thing! The city needs to continue to work on its strategic planning efforts. Doing so will ensure that the city is working toward the long-term goals that are important to its citizens and stakeholders.



**Jeffrey D. Wobser (Incumbent):** Financially the city continues to be in a strong position with General Fund monies available above our current budget. This cash position allows us to take advantage of state and federal grants that require matching funds. However, our income streams are in flux with the Cooper Tire sale and the reorganization of Marathon Petroleum, plus, of course, the effects of the Covid pandemic. All of this means that we will need continued vigilance in our fiscal spending. I have discussed several topics with the Mayor that we both agree to move forward this year and next. The first is the completion of a strategic plan for the city. The second is the annexation of various areas and neighborhoods around the perimeter of the city.

**Q. How would you promote the area's continued growth while remaining mindful of the needs of the community?**



**Holly Frische (Candidate):** Promoting Findlay's growth is more than recruiting business and increasing housing. It's recruiting the right businesses to increase our gross median household incomes. It's about strengthening our communities portfolio in a way that betters our schools, neighborhoods and businesses who have made Findlay/Hancock County their home over the years. As a member of Council I would be mindful of our community's public safety and infrastructure by promoting and supporting our police and fire departments and being engaged in neighborhood conversations regarding infrastructure concerns while also staying involved in capital planning by looking to the future. As a member of Council I will listen, ask questions, promote and be a voice for the entire community.



**Randy Greeno (Candidate):** Findlay is one of the most vibrant communities in Ohio and being named the Top Micropolitan city in the United States 7 years in a row doesn't happen without outstanding cooperation and collaboration among various entities throughout Findlay and Hancock County. I will continue to promote this teamwork in every way possible. I am NOT a rubber stamp on issues but listen to every side of a situation with dignity and then carefully consider all factors of the matter. A common-sense approach to issues is imperative. I believe growth must continue at a sustainable rate, keeping in mind all that comes with that growth. Expanding infrastructure & safety forces, continued industrial growth and retention of employers, and affordable housing for low- & middle-income individuals are a few of the concerns associated with sustainable growth. Keeping in mind that growth will also increase our tax base and boost the local economy, we must always continue to serve the citizens with the quality of services that they are accustomed to at an affordable rate.



**Grant C. Russel (Incumbent):** 2020 was a challenging year and yet we had many successes as recognized in winning our seventh Micropolitan of the Year award. Cooperation, the 'Findlay Formula', continues to be our key competitive advantage as we tackle challenges. Our low pre-COVID unemployment rate is indicative of our successes. It is also one of our primary challenges. We must encourage the development of a wide range of housing options. Our permitting processes must be inexpensive and efficient, so it does not hinder development efforts. Findlay City Schools, Owens and the University of Findlay, plus organizations like 'Raise the Bar' play a vital role in our mission to develop a skilled workforce. Our Economic Develop team has diligently worked to help workers affected by the COVID economy find new opportunities in the area. The City plays a vital role, by creating an environment where people want to live, work, learn and play. We do that by working in a cost-effective manner, keeping our tax-rates low while developing the quality-of-life amenities that people are demanding in their communities.



**Jeffrey D. Wobser (Incumbent):** Growth in our community is generally a slow and deliberate process. Many of our citizens do not like to see a lot of change in the community. But, we all know that Findlay must continue to grow and evolve. From the perspective of a city councilperson, I believe that being sound financially is the best way to grow our city. Our primary responsibilities are to provide fire, and police protection, good streets, clean water, and sewer. These things build a solid base and infrastructure on which growth can occur. Plus, we must do this while keeping taxes as low as possible. For me, these are the most critical things the city, and I as a councilperson can do to promote growth.

Candidates running for **Council-At-Large** who did not respond to the questionnaire: **Andre Gilbert**

## Findlay City Council - First Ward

**Q. What are the motivating factors in your decision to run for public office?**



**Brad Wisener (Candidate):** As a successful professional living, working, and raising a family in Findlay, I feel I should give back to the community and neighborhood that I call home. Findlay is moving forward in attracting new businesses, and I want to be part of this success. I believe in a common-sense approach to government, and I like to think outside of the box. We cannot get stagnant in our ways; as our world continues to change, we must be one step ahead of that change. No matter what, there is always room to better serve our community, and I would work tirelessly and always put the citizens of Findlay first.

**Q. Should you win in May, what are your priorities and how do you recommend we address them as a community?**



**Brad Wisener (Candidate):** If I won a council seat, I would feel humbled and would not be outworked by anyone. My main priorities would be working and supporting our first responders as they continue to deal with opioid and drug issues within our community. I would work with and support drug treatment facilities to get these citizens the help they truly need. I would like to see a tax benefit for young professionals moving back into our community after completing college and wanting to work, live and raise a family in Findlay. I would work with our small businesses fighting hard each day to survive from the huge box stores and the online market. I would work with the Findlay City School Administration to help with their financial issues and keep schools open. I would work with our County commissioners in mitigating our flooding issues. I would analyze the city budget and identify any wasteful spending. I would work with our Hancock County Commissioners in finding ways to save money and cut out duplicated services.

**Q. How would you promote the area's continued growth while remaining mindful of the needs of the community?**



**Brad Wisener (Candidate):** What is essential in growing a city is how it grows, not how big it grows. Growth is a positive thing when done well. We need to continue to attract companies wanting to be a part of our community and provide well-paying jobs. We need to work with our career centers to develop trades that these companies need. We need to attract college graduates that want to live, work and raise a family here. We need to look at housing issues and develop a housing plan. We need to work with our safety service professionals to keep Findlay one of the safest cities to live.

Candidates running for **Findlay City Council – First Ward** who did not respond to the questionnaire: **Bud Haas Jr.**

**Findlay City Council At Large Candidate Forum**

Wednesday, April 7

6:00 pm

1330/95.5 WFIN, wfin.com and UFTV will broadcast the Findlay City Council At Large Candidate Forum live from the Winebrenner Auditorium. Five candidates are vying for the three positions. Those candidates include: Holly Frische, Andre Gilbert, Randy Greeno, Grant Russel (incumbent) and Jeff Wobser (incumbent).

**The Chamber Encourages You to Review the Entire Ballot**

Please be informed and carefully review all of the issues on the May 4th ballot for Hancock County.  
A complete list can be found at [HancockBoardofElections.com](http://HancockBoardofElections.com).

**HANCOCK COUNTY**

**1 FOSTORIA CITY**

**PROPOSED MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX**

The continuation of an existing one percent (1%) levy on income for the purpose of providing funds for street repair, capital improvement, infrastructure, Kaubisch Memorial Public Library, development, parks and recreation, citywide cleanup and beautification and general fund commencing on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2026.

**2 DELAWARE TOWNSHIP**

**PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)**

An additional tax for the benefit of Delaware Township, for the purpose of fire protection, specifically, for the general operation of the fire department and the purchase of firefighting vehicles, fire apparatus and related equipment, at a rate not exceeding 2.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.25 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

### 3 ORANGE TOWNSHIP

#### **PROPOSED TAX LEVY (REPLACEMENT)**

A replacement of a tax for the benefit of Orange Township for the purpose of CURRENT EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.10 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

### 4 ARCADIA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### **PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)**

A levy renewing an existing levy for the Arcadia Local School District, Hancock and Seneca Counties, Ohio for the purpose of avoiding an operating deficit, in the sum of \$305,000, and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average 1.7 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.17 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 4 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.

### 5 RIVERDALE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### **PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)**

A levy for the Riverdale Local School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the School District in the sum of \$930,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the County Auditor to average 6.1 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.61 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022.