

Jenny SPENCER

CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL

WARD 15

August 2024

Dear Ward 15 Voter,

I am writing to you to advocate for the lives of our neighbors. As our Ward's elected leader for the past 3.5 years, I wish to firmly and unequivocally state that nothing matters more to our community's freedom, health, wealth and safety than federal policy - policies that are at risk with the 2024 election.

We live in a racially and socio-economically diverse community, where it's common for neighbors to support other neighbors. I do not believe that any of us are prepared for this historical moment. Our very democracy is in peril and our most vulnerable neighbors will be impacted first. Former President Donald J. Trump is already telling us exactly what he will do if he is re-elected:

- Lower taxes for the rich, again.
- Gut Medicare and Social Security.
- Attempt to repeal Obamacare.
- Keep open the possibility of a national abortion ban.
- Roll back freedom and human rights, including LGBTQIA+ rights.
- Deny climate change and eviscerate common sense environmental regulations.
- Embrace political violence if he does not win the election.

Trump will be influenced by The Heritage Foundation's 900-page manifesto written by officials of his prior administration - known as "Project 2025" - to swiftly gut the federal government and replace civil servants with individuals loyal to him only, including acceptance of the lie that the 2020 election was stolen. Trump wants to make this country a white Christian nationalist state with one-party minority rule.¹

This letter is a call to action. Last year, Ohioans pulled off a miracle and preserved democracy in our state by voting "NO" in the August 8, 2023 special election - by educating and informing ourselves, and by reaching out to fellow voters. We must do this again now. Make a list of 10 friends, check in with them about this election, and make sure they have a plan to vote. **Information about candidates and key races is on the reverse side of this letter.**

Ohio's Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, recently ordered another purge of the voter rolls. Check your registration status or re-register online at www.VoteOhio.gov. If you have questions regarding the facts I've shared, please do not hesitate to email me at jenny@jennyspencer.org. If you would like to share this letter with others, it will be uploaded to www.jennyspencer.org/news. To join the local movement to defeat Donald Trump and to elect Kamala Harris, Sherrod Brown and Democrats up and down the ballot, contact our Ward 15 Democratic Club at cleward15demclub@gmail.com.

Thank you,



Jenny Spencer

¹ time.com/6972021/donald-trump-2024-election-interview/; www.theatlantic.com/if-trump-wins/; NPR 7/8/24 - [Republican Party releases 2024 party platform that outlines Trump's agenda if elected](#); Red Wine & Blue - [Heather Cox Richardson Talks Project 2025](#)

ON THE BALLOT - OHIO NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION
VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 7, 2024

U.S. Presidential Race

Joe Biden and **Kamala Harris** have achieved real legislative results focused on everyday Americans, despite partisan gridlock and polarization. Examples include:

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (2021) - www.whitehouse.gov/build/guidebook/
- American Rescue Plan Act (2021) - Cleveland received \$511 million in pandemic relief
- CHIPS and Science Act (2022) - [to strengthen supply chains and counter China](#)
- Inflation Reduction Act (2022) - for [clean energy and climate change](#). The bill also caps insulin out-of-pocket spending at \$35 per month for those on Medicare.
- Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (2022), the [first major gun safety legislation](#) passed by Congress in 30 years. In 2023, Biden established the first-ever White House Office of [Gun Violence Prevention](#).
- Nominated the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court; and named the most diverse Cabinet in U.S. history.
- A strong economy and post-pandemic economic recovery, including:
 - Avoiding a widely-predicted recession
 - Rates of inflation that are falling and lower than those of peer countries
 - A strong labor market, with wages outpacing inflation
 - Distressed rural counties have staged a remarkable comeback ([NY Times 7/8/24](#))
- Total student-loan forgiveness approved by the Biden-Harris Administration is now [\\$167B for 4.75M Americans](#). A [broader loan forgiveness plan](#) could begin this October.
- Navigating a hot button issue, Democratic representatives have symbolized the spectrum of American concerns regarding the war in Gaza. On the other hand, the Trump campaign has shown no concern for Palestinian lives or rights and would give free rein to Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Democratic Party released its draft platform in July. The Platform Committee sought input across the country via an online portal, listening sessions and testimony at meetings. <https://bit.ly/2024DemPartyPlatform>

U.S. Senate Race

U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, first elected to the Senate in 2006, has improved lives in every corner of the state, dedicating his life to fighting for Ohioans and the Dignity of Work. In addition to supporting policies like those listed above, recent accomplishments include:

- The PACT Act - health care for veterans exposed to burn pits
- The FEND Off Fentanyl Act, cracking down on fentanyl supply chains from Mexico and China
- Introduction of the Railway Safety Act of 2023 & the Shrinkflation Prevention Act of 2024

More at: www.sherrodbrown.com/issues/

Citizens Not Politicians

Thanks to Ohioans voting NO on Issue 1 last August, citizens have retained our right to amend our State Constitution with a 50%+1 majority. The **Citizens Not Politicians ballot amendment** is led by retired Republican Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, and would create a 15-member Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission made up of Democratic, Republican, and Independent citizens. It is modeled after successful gerrymandering reform in other states, such as Michigan. More info:

www.citizensnotpoliticians.org

Ohio Supreme Court Races

In 2021, the Ohio legislature passed a law that added party labels to the state high court. Three Ohio Supreme Court seats are on the ballot this year, and the Democrats running are **Melody Stewart** (incumbent), **Michael Donnelly** (incumbent) and **Lisa Forbes**. If Republicans win all 3 seats, they will have 6-1 control over the court, with Justice Jennifer Brunner the only remaining Democrat on the court. Politicization of the judiciary branch should be a major concern to all voters.