

# Voter Guide 2023

Non-Partisan Guide to the November 7, 2023 General Election in Athens County

## Voting Options

**Identification:** Unexpired photo identification is required to vote early in-person or on election day. Acceptable photo ID's are: OH Driver's License, OH State ID card, US Passport or Passport Card, US Military ID, OH National Guard ID, or US Dept of Veterans Affairs ID. Absentee ballot ID can be any of the above, or the last four digits of the voter's social security number.

**Absentee (also called Vote by Mail):** Submit an official absentee ballot request form now (available at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov) or call the BOE). Complete and return the ballot as soon as possible. Deliver your ballot to the Board of Elections by 7:30pm on November 7, OR mail it — it must be postmarked by November 6 and received by November 11.

**Early In-Person:** At the Board of Elections Office, 15 S. Court St., Athens. Oct. 11-13, Oct.16-20 & Oct. 23-27 8:00am-5:00pm, Oct. 30 7:30am-7:30pm, Oct. 31 7:30am-8:30pm, Nov.1-3 7:30am-7:30pm, Nov. 4 8:00am-4:00pm, and Nov. 5 1:00pm-5:00pm

### In-Person on Election Day, November 8:

Polls are open 6:30am—7:30pm. Voters in line by 7:30pm will be permitted to vote.

The League of Women Voters of Athens County is a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. Questions and character limits are set by the League. Information is printed as submitted. According to the guidelines of The League of Women Voters, the League does not alter, edit, or correct candidates' responses to questions; however, the word *and* and *&* have been interchanged as necessary, only for the purposes of layout. A candidate's answers are printed with the understanding that the material will not be used in any way that could be considered to be the League's endorsement of the candidate or their views.

### League of Women Voters of Athens County:

[www.AthensLeagueofWomenVoters.org](http://www.AthensLeagueofWomenVoters.org),  
[AthensLeagueofWomenVoters@gmail.com](mailto:AthensLeagueofWomenVoters@gmail.com), 740-590-4102,  
Online Voters Guide [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

**Athens County Board of Elections:** To track your absentee ballot or to verify your polling location, visit the Athens County Board of Elections:  
[www.boe.ohio.gov/athens](http://www.boe.ohio.gov/athens)  
740-592-3201

## Additional Candidate Responses and Uncontested Race Information are Available Online at [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org).

<p><b>Athens City Mayor</b>  <u>Responsibilities:</u> The mayor is the chief executive of the city.  The mayor supervises the administration of the city, oversees all city departments and may appoint various city officials.</p>				
Candidates in alphabetical order	If elected, what would be your top priority for the first year? How would you address it?	What is your vision for the city for the next 4-6 years?	What do you see as the city's current strengths and areas for improvement?	What initiatives, if any, would you propose to support a sense of community in your city?
<b>Damon Krane</b> damon.krane@gmail.com	The mayor's legally mandated duty is to implement city code created by council. My opponent has failed or refused to follow code regarding towing companies and fee caps, rental housing safety and landlord licensure, consultation with advisory boards, anti-discrimination in housing and public accommodations, and more. So I will take full inventory of these discrepancies, determine their causes, restore the proper division of power, and return accountability and rule of law to city government.	Far from an insular bubble, Athens exports 70k young people every decade all across Ohio and the US. Yet city "leaders" exclude young people from public life. My opponent even refuses to participate in any student-hosted, campus debate. So 14% of eligible voters vote in city elections, and we turn overwhelmingly progressive youth into practiced non-voters. Enough. I will create an inclusive, democratic city, with a large and representative electorate, that positively impacts our larger world.	The vast majority of Athenians are too compassionate and critically-minded to be Republicans, and that's nothing to sneeze at! But it's not enough to be a non-fascist community, we need to be an anti-fascist community that maximizes opposition to Republicans at the regional, state and national levels. So we must empower and activate the masses of young residents, tenants and working people, and finally integrate them into the public life of our city. To protect our democracy we must expand it.	Sense needs substance. The 86% of eligible city voters alienated from the public life of our community don't need a pep rally or PR campaign; they need a city government that fights for them. That's why I'll crack down on predatory landlords and overcharging towing companies; strengthen the housing code and its enforcement; increase oversight and accountability of police; focus on public health and anti-poverty; fight discrimination; and give Athens an honest, ethical mayor with integrity.
<b>Steve Patterson</b> stevempatterson@gmail.com	I have two top priorities as I enter my third term. First, I plan to create easier pathways for residences, businesses, and municipal buildings to reduce carbon emissions (e.g., solar, geothermal) by working with City Council to streamline code and make it easier to take advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act funding. Second, I will continue to work with developers to incentivize affordable housing by utilizing the Single-Family Housing Tax Credit, through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.	During my tenure as mayor, my vision has focused on improving city infrastructure and services, diversifying our local economy, reducing the city's carbon emissions, increasing racial equity and inclusion efforts, creating, and improving recreational options, and addressing accessibility in our community. In addition to sustaining these initiatives, it is critical that the city identify ways to incentivize the development of affordable housing options throughout Athens.	There are so many strengths in our great city including the professionalism and expertise of the city employees throughout all city departments. Also, I would contend that the relationship between the city and OHIO has never been stronger. Areas for improvement include affordable housing, accessible sidewalks, and public transportation options (e.g., expanded public transit routes and times, rental cars, and ridesharing).	A significant portion of our city population comes from the student body at OHIO. I will continue to work with President Lori Stewart Gonzalez, Provost Sayrs, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Center for Campus & Community Engagement to create more experiential learning opportunities throughout the greater Athens community. I will also continue to enhance music/performance art throughout our city parks and uptown community and family events.