

This candidate information is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of Wood County as a public service. Candidate responses are printed exactly as received, including spelling, grammar and content. Candidate biographies and responses to questions were limited to 60 words

Office County Commissioner
Name Sam Baker
Party Republican

No Reply

Office County Commissioner
Name Roger E. Brown
Party Republican

Biography

Wood County born, raised; married Tia (Wilcoxon) Brown; three married children, two grandchildren; attend Fellowship Baptist Church, member GMR Choir, NRA & Fort Boreman Gun Club, City Council, Finance, Personnel, Public Works, Wood County Recreation, Wood County Republican Executive Committees, Parkersburg BZA; employed Sears, Manville, IBEW LU #968, Journeyman Wireman, retired; attended PSHS, Fairmont State;
Facebook Roger E. Brown

1. What do you think the county's role should be in dealing with the problems of homelessness and addiction?

Homelessness and addiction often go hand-in-hand. Working together with city, county, and state leaders, law enforcement, and agencies, we must gain understanding of the rehab process and help develop a reunification program to return the homeless and those with addictions (both successful & failed recoveries) to a support system or family member in their area of origin.

2. Would you favor the county having a sales tax as is provided for cities by home rule? Why or why not?

Wood County is unique. Williamstown enacted a municipal 1% sales tax increase effective 2011. Parkersburg & Vienna adopted a 1% sales tax increase with Home Rule effective 2015. All have benefited financially and successfully eliminated or reduced the B&O tax. This Home Rule sales tax would put all Wood County on the same level as these cities.

3. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for county commissioner?

I have spent over 50 years working for people on jobs and in government. I am familiar with budgets, personnel, hearings and the importance of connected committees and agencies. I know the value of day-to-day hard work and have the ability to work together to achieve a common goal. I want to work with you for Wood County.

Office County Commissioner
Name Robert K. Tebay
Party Republican

Biography

Degrees from PHS and WVU. Former dairy farming business owner—responsible for production, processing and delivery of products. Owned and operated a local grocery with farm-to-table products. Prior member and President of Commercial, Wesbanco, and Lubeck Banks; the WV Dairy Products Association, and an organizer of United Livestock Yard of Mineral Wells. Current rental property owner/manager in Wood County.

1. What do you think the county's role should be in dealing with the problems of homelessness and addiction?

I understand it is a person's constitutional right to be homeless. They must, however, abide by all local laws and must not infringe upon the rights of other citizens and individuals. Addiction is a disease and should be treated as such. Medical treatment is the answer.

2. Would you favor the county having a sales tax as is provided for cities by home rule? Why or why not?

A county sales tax would be extremely helpful to expand the work in county development projects and bring new businesses to Wood County.

3. What experience, training or education do you have that makes you the best qualified candidate for county commissioner?

I hold a BS in Business Administration and have owned and operated a wide variety of businesses; including dairy farms, retail sales outlets, land management, and rental properties. I served 2 years in the US Army and 18 years as a county commissioner in Wood county.

This candidate information is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of Wood County as a public service. Candidates for Circuit Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Assessor, Surveyor, and Conservation District Supervisor are running unopposed in the primary and were asked to submit a statement to the voters. Candidate responses are printed exactly as received, including spelling, grammar and content. Candidate biographies and responses to questions were limited to 60 words for the biography and 120 words for the statement to the voters.

Office Circuit Clerk – Unexpired Term

Name Celeste Waldron Ridgeway

Party Republican

Biography

Born 04/26/64 and raised in Parkersburg WV. Graduated from PKSB South. I reside in Williamstown WV with my Husband of 21 years.

My career has consisted of 30 years of Business Management with responsibility of as much as 30 employees and all the aspects that come with successfully managing a business.

I am a Christian and strong in my faith.

Statement to the Voters

I am very privileged and honored to have the appointment of Wood County Circuit Clerk.

I have been an employee of this office for 13 years. I am very familiar with the required code functions and practices of the office and statutes.

I will maintain good community repour, assisting the Courts and Attorney's with goals to implement new plans/projects to better assist with the needs of all.

I am asking voters for their support so that I can continue to put my experience and skills to work for the betterment of this office and Wood County as their Clerk.

I look forward to being your Circuit Clerk now and many years to come.

Sincerely

Celeste Ridgeway

Office Prosecuting Attorney

Name Pat Lefebure

Party Republican

Biography

Patrick Lefebure started in the Wood County Prosecutor's Office in 2003 as an assistant prosecutor. He became the elected prosecutor in 2017. He has made changes in the office to combat the drug problem, such as prosecuting the individuals supplying drugs that cause overdose deaths. He obtained his law degree from Capital University and his undergraduate degree from Marshall University.

Statement to the Voters

I will continue to work with the citizens of Wood County to make our community a safer

and excellent place to raise our children. Continuing the fight against the drug epidemic will take a combination of efforts from law enforcement, treatment programs, and all community members to make an impact. Included in this focus will be dedicating more time and energy to informing our youth of the dangers of substance abuse and placing an emphasis on educating parents to ensure that they have appropriate tools to provide the necessary support and guidance for our children. As your elected official, my office will continue to serve as an extension of our community and be responsive to the challenges we face.

Office Sherriff

Name Steve Stephens

Party Republican

Biography

Current Sheriff - 3 years. 9 years - Deputy and Chief of Confinement Operations. 28 years -Vienna Police Department. Former PNTF agent and commander. Former FBI JTTF agent. Chair - WV Law Enforcement Professional Standards sub-committee. Graduate of the FBI National Academy and the WV State Police Academy. President of the WV State Sheriff's Association.

Statement to the Voters

Thank you all for your support by allowing me to serve as your Wood County Sheriff. We have accomplished many things but I need your help to continue our mission. We created an amazing K9 unit consisting of 3 well-trained K9s and handlers, solely on public donations! We have been able to obtain grants to purchase bulletproof vests for our deputies and our K9s. We have implemented in-car cameras and now, body cameras for deputies. Our County Commission gave substantial pay raises to our deputies and employees. Obviously, the drug problem is a concern for everyone. We continue to aggressively fight it with our drug task force and extra interdiction patrols. Together, we can make a safer Wood County!

Office Assessor

Name David C. Nohe

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Surveyor

Name Charles F. Hughes Jr.

Party Republican

No Reply

Office Conservation District Supervisor

Name Jeff McElfresh

Party Non-partisan

No Reply