

## **Wood County Candidates for County Commissioner, Circuit Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Assessor and Surveyor**

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 and Surveyor are running unopposed in the general election 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. The statement to the voters was limited to 120 words.

**Office** County Commissioner  
**Name** David "Dave" Foggin  
**Party** Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I'm a life long resident of Belleville in Wood County. I graduated from PSHS (All-State football and track). I was an All-American nominee at WVU and earned both Chemical Engineering and Secondary Education degrees there. I have taught Physics and Chemistry at PSHS for the last 20 years. I'm a son, father, husband, friend, and a Christian.

### **1. What changes would you recommend for responding to any future emergencies such as COVID-19 that would increase overall preparedness and assist those affected by the emergency?**

The county commission is NOT charged with providing healthcare to the citizens of Wood County. The Covid-19 media "scamdemic" lacks factual scientific justification to support action by government. Proper funding and support of county law enforcement, fire, and ambulance services is crucial to handling any emergency Wood County may face.

### **2. What are your budget priorities when it comes to competing needs among county offices and departments?**

Public safety should be the top priority for the commission. Proper funding and support of county law enforcement, fire, and ambulance services is crucial to public safety. Local skilled labor should be used for ALL capital projects and highly qualified Wood County residents should be given preference for county jobs.

### **3. Are there any changes in state laws regarding county government that you feel would benefit Wood County? Please explain.**

While state preemption allows more consistency between communities, local leaders know the needs of local citizens and local policy should be dictated by local opinion.

### **4. What do you want to accomplish as county commissioner?**

I would like to ethically, fairly, and conscientiously spend the PEOPLE's tax dollars on the things that most benefit the PEOPLE!

### **5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective county commissioner?**

I am a Christian and I have a love of people. I strive to be firm but fair in my dealings. I have a degree in problem solving from WVU. I am a regular person, working a regular job, with the same day to day trials faced by most Wood County citizens.

**Office** County Commissioner  
**Name** Robert K. "Bob" Tebay  
**Party** Republican

### **Biography**

The entirety of my education was completed here in West Virginia. I graduated from PHS and hold a bachelor's degree in business administration from WVU. I am the owner of Tebay Dairy; formerly responsible for production, processing, sales and delivery of dairy products, but currently a residential rental business consisting of ownership, management and maintenance of various local property types.

**1. What changes would you recommend for responding to any future emergencies such as COVID-19 that would increase overall preparedness and assist those affected by the emergency?**

As a Boy Scout our motto, Be Prepared was the cornerstone of our values. It is vital that our county heed this motto by keeping all 911 staff, sheriff departments, and volunteer fire departments well trained, staffed and equipped. Improved methods of communication should be implemented to keep our citizens better informed during times of crisis within our community.

**2. What are your budget priorities when it comes to competing needs among county offices and departments?**

My priority in budgeting is to ensure our county employees possess the best training and equipment necessary to handle all aspects of their respective duties. This is imperative to providing the highest quality of service to our citizens. Additionally, I believe it would be extremely beneficial to prioritize expansion of internet availability in remote county areas.

**3. Are there any changes in state laws regarding county government that you feel would benefit Wood County? Please explain.**

I feel that we should continue, as we have been, to ask state legislature to give counties a 1% sales tax. This tax would be identical to the tax allowed to cities for businesses within their jurisdiction. The revenue from this tax would be helpful to expand work on county development projects.

**4. What do you want to accomplish as county commissioner?**

My goal as a county commissioner will be to ensure that Wood County remains a safe and thriving community for our children and grandchildren to raise their own families within.

**5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective county commissioner?**

My 18 years of experience as a county commissioner provide me with unique expertise regarding both current and future county plans and projects. My professional background displays an affinity for leadership. Finally, my service as an Eagle Scout, current volunteer Scout Leader, and member of the United States Army has instilled within me the aptitude to always Be Prepared.

**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, and all the aspects that come with successfully managing a business and its employees.

I am a Christian and strong in my faith, and very thankful for it

**Statement to the Voters**

Looking ahead I am very excited for the General Election on November 03,2020.

Voter's I am looking to you for your support. While I am in office, we will continue to move the office forward to better serve all of our customers, attorneys, and the Court's.

I have set a high standard for the office, and myself. Our promise to you is to be very professional, courteous and dedicated in guiding you in the right direction and helping you however we can.

I look forward to being your Circuit Clerk. I enjoy all of the aspects of being Clerk and all the positive changes we have made as an office with more to come.

Please get out and vote!

Sincerely

**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. In today's environment, I feel it is vitally important to make decisions based upon facts and the applicable law. A prosecutor should never be swayed by public sentiment or political favor. 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**

Currently serving my 4<sup>th</sup> year as Sheriff. Previously served 28 years with Vienna PD retiring as Police Chief. Served 8.5 years at the Wood County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff and Chief of Confinement Operations. Former PNTF officer and commander. Former FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force Agent. Current chairman of Governor's Law Enforcement Professional Standards Subcommittee.

### **Statement to the Voters**

In these past few months, our pandemic influenced lives have changed dramatically for us all. However, the WCSO has met these difficulties head on and continues to provide the level of service that the citizens of Wood County not only expect, but deserve. From our emergency response to accidents and crimes in progress calls to the less emergent calls for service such as animal complaints and larceny reports, the WCSO remains vigilant. Throughout Covid-19, the tax office maintained the drive-thru to assist taxpayers with not only tax payments, but also conceal carry and license registration renewals. The on-line tax payment was redefined and improved to give another taxpayer option. However, we will always strive to improve upon our services.

**Office** Assessor

**Name** David C. Nohe

**Party** Republican

### **Biography**

I served as Mayor of Vienna from 1997-2012 and was elected to the WV State Senate in 2010 and 2014. As Senator I served as Chairman of Banking and Insurance and was Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am currently in my fourth year as Wood County Assessor and am pleased to be running for a second term.

### **Statement to the Voters**

It has been an honor, as well as a challenge, to serve you as the Wood County Assessor during these uncertain times. Our employees have worked tirelessly to serve you better as we strive to provide a safe environment for you. We continue to improve our online services, as much as possible, so that you are able to access all your current tax information and historical data from the safety of your home. We

pride ourselves on assessing your property at a fair market value and making sure you receive all the discounts you are entitled to.

I am grateful for your past support, and although I am unopposed in this election, I would appreciate your vote on November 3.

**Office** Surveyor

**Name** Charles F. Hughes Jr.

**Party** Republican

**No Reply**