

The Citizen

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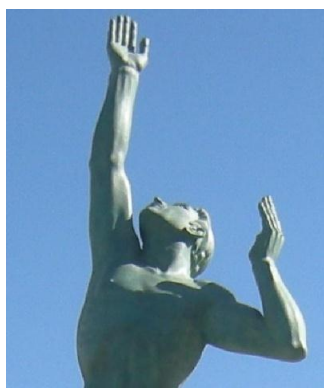
December 2011

Mission

The Citizens League of Greater Cleveland seeks to achieve integrity, efficiency, and transparency in local and county government by promoting citizen education and involvement.

Executive Committee

Jim Dixon	Chair
Jay Carson	Vice Chair
Ed Blakemore	Secretary
Josh Berger	
Chris Diehl	
Jennifer Griveas	
Michael Gesing	
Gus Kallergis	
Patrick Mazur	
Kay Polster	
Virginia Valdes	



**The Citizens League of
Greater Cleveland
P.O. Box 14702
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
216-533-8447
www.thecitizensleague.org
tclogc@gmail.com**

The Citizens League Launches 2012 Candidate Evaluation Program

Last year marked not only the return of The Citizens League, but also the return of its Candidates Program. “Without question,” noted Ed Blakemore, “the most well educated voters in 2010 were the members of The Citizens League who participated in the evaluation of candidates for County Executive. And, those who read the information they published got a thorough education about the candidates.”

Through the Candidates Program, The Citizens League also provided a new and unique tool for voters. The Citizens League now publishes candidate information in web-based Digital Dossiers™. For the first time, the voters of Cuyahoga County can direct their web browsers to one site that provides basic biographical data and the candidates’ responses to questionnaires, all with hyper-links to the source of the information. Voters can critically evaluate that information to make their own determination of the candidate’s merit.

The 2012 election cycle will again see the publication of Digital Dossiers™, candidate evaluations, rankings, and endorsements. The Candidates Committee will interview candidates for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor on January 3. They will also conduct biographical research, solicit questionnaire responses, and publish Digital Dossiers™ in time to make an endorsement before early voting begins in January. This is necessary because the six candidates are all Democrats. Unless an independent candidate declares at a later date, the primary election will determine the winner.

The Candidates Program will then spend the spring and summer evaluating candidates for County Council. Candidates in Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 will be on the ballot in 2012. Incumbents Jack Schron, Pernel Jones, Jr., and Julian Rogers, in Districts 6, 8, and 10, respectively, will not face a challenger unless an independent comes forward. In Districts 2 and 4, incumbents Dale Miller and Chuck Germana will face challengers from the opposing party.

Every member of The Citizens League can participate in the Candidates Program. If you are interested in participating, please join now. Prosecutor interviews will be January 3.

League Fills its Executive Committee

The Citizens League is proud to announce that Chris Diehl, Patrick Mazur, Kay Polster, Gus Kallergis and Josh Berger have joined its Executive Committee since the time of the last newsletter. Also, Paul and Amy Tippetts are serving as interns.

“One of our key 2011 goals for rebuilding this great institution,” said Jim Dixon, “was to fill the remaining seats on our Executive Committee.” Under its Bylaws, the Executive Committee consists of up to a dozen members who are committed to the non-partisan pursuit of The Citizen League’s mission. At the time of The Citizens League’s rebirth in April 2010, several seats were left vacant to allow for greater diversity.

Kay is an attorney with the Department of Labor who resides in East Cleveland. Patrick lives in Bay Village and works in the field of electronic data storage.

Chris lives in Cleveland and is a first-year associate at Porter Wright. Chris helped with the Candidates Program in 2010. He will be serving as Co-Chair of that program with Virginia Valdes in 2012.

Josh is an attorney in private practice and is a resident of University Heights. Gus is a resident of Shaker Heights and a partner at Calfee Halter & Griswold.

The Citizens League strives to speak with a voice that reflects the community’s diversity in terms of age, residence, heritage, gender, and political point of view. If you are interested in giving more of your time, please contact a member of the Executive Committee. Also, in 2012, The Citizens League will be filling open seats on the Board of its 501(C)(3) sister organization—The Citizens League Institute.

Join Now to Evaluate Candidates and Support Vital Programs

The Citizens League encourages you to join today with a contribution of any amount. While suggested membership levels are listed on the web site, citizens are encouraged to join using a contribution that is comfortable for their circumstances. The typical individual membership level is \$50.

Membership is open to individuals of voting age who support the mission of The Citizens League of Greater Cleveland. Members agree to support this mission and participate in activities in a non-partisan fashion.

Members may participate in the work of committees and study groups. They may cast a vote for Executive Committee members at the membership meeting. They may also hold a seat on the Executive Committee. They will also receive the periodic e-newsletter.

In addition to participating in the Candidates Program, members can also assist with the Alliance of Good Government Advocates, The Council District Citizens Caucuses, and the formation of The Citizens League Institute, which will conduct donation- and grant-funded research and pursue related educational programs.

To join, send your initial dues (by check made payable to The Citizens League of Greater Cleveland) and your contact information to: The Citizens League of Greater Cleveland, P.O. Box 14702, Cleveland, Ohio, 44114.

The Citizens League of Greater Cleveland is organized as a 501(C)(4) corporation. As such, membership dues are not tax deductible.