



THE OHIO
WOMEN'S
PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

**VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

OHIO GENERAL ELECTION

For Ohio State House and State Senate Candidates



**THE OHIO WOMEN'S PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK
VOTER GUIDE FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 - OHIO GENERAL ELECTION**

The Ohio Women's Public Policy Network is a coalition of nearly 40 organizations working collaboratively to advocate for public policy solutions that build economic opportunity for women and families. The coalition is united by a shared vision: an Ohio in which all women - particularly women of color, women with low-wages, and other marginalized women - have the resources to thrive and the opportunity to lead economically secure, safe, and healthy lives. More information can be found online at www.womenspublicpolicynetwork.org.

Member organizations of the Women's Public Policy Network include the following:

ACLU of Ohio	National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter	Ohio Women's Alliance
ACTION OHIO	National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Central Ohio Chapter	Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio
American Association of University Women, Ohio	National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Chapter	Policy Matters Ohio
Catholics for Choice	Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence	Preterm
Children's Defense Fund - Ohio	Ohio Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)	Restoring Our Own Through Transformation (ROOTT)
Closing the Women's Wealth Gap	Ohio Domestic Violence Network	The Women's Fund of Central Ohio
Equality Ohio	Ohio Federation of Teachers	The Women's Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Equitas Health	Ohio National Organization for Women	UHCAN Ohio
#Fight4HER	Ohio Progressive Asian Women's Leadership (OPAWL)	URGE: United for Reproductive and Gender Equality
Hadassah Columbus	Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (Ohio RCRC)	YWCA Columbus
Innovation Ohio Education Fund	Ohio Urban Resources Systems (O.U.R.S.)	YWCA Dayton
Jobs with Justice, Cleveland Chapter		YWCA Greater Cincinnati
Juvenile Justice Coalition		
NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio		

The work of The Ohio Women's Public Policy Network is made possible by generous support from





September 21, 2020

Dear Candidate,

Re: The Ohio Women's Public Policy Network 2020 General Election Voter Guide Questionnaire

The Women's Public Policy Network brings together nearly 40 key advocacy organizations to speak with one collective voice and ensure that public policy reflects the true needs of Ohio women and their families.

Our coalition partners worked in coordination to create, publish, and distribute the following Women's Public Policy Network 2020 Ohio General Election Voter Guide. We respectfully ask that you participate in this critically important civic engagement project, which aims to inform voters of your priorities on three main issue areas affecting women and their families:

- 1) Promoting economic security**
- 2) Ensuring fairness and opportunity in the workplace**
- 3) Improving women's health and wellbeing**

Our Voter Guide was created to serve as a non-partisan, educational tool for voters to understand where candidates for State Representative and State Senate in the 2020 general elections stand on issues impacting Ohio's women and families. This project is intended to be a voter education guide, and it is not an endorsement of any candidate or political party. As a non-partisan organization, we neither support nor oppose candidates or political parties.

We will publish your responses to our three questions on our online Voter Guide, along with the answers from all other candidates for the state house and state senate who respond. Candidates who do not respond will also be included on the website with an indication that no responses were received. The information will be made available on our website, online at www.womenspublicpolicynetwork.org/voter-guide. Coalition partners within the Women's Public Policy Network will also distribute the Voter Guide to their own members, networks, and partners.

We provided further instructions and guidelines for completing the questionnaire in the Project Narrative and Instructions sheet, included in this packet. Should you have any questions or concerns while completing the questionnaire, please contact our Managing Director Erin Ryan at (440) 382-2900 or wppnvoterguide@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this Voter Guide, which aims to keep Ohio voters informed on where candidates stand on issues affecting women and their families.

Sincerely,

The Ohio Women's Public Policy Network

PROJECT NARRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONS

DEADLINE: 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

To participate in the Women's Public Policy Network 2020 General Election Voter Guide, please complete the attached questionnaire and submission form. Please use the following instructions to ensure that the forms are done completely and correctly.

QUESTION OVERVIEW: The Voter Guide includes **three open-ended questions** crafted by our member organizations. The questions are related to the three main issue focus areas of our policy agenda:

- 1) Promoting economic security for women;*
- 2) Ensuring fairness and opportunity in the workplace; and*
- 3) Improving women's health and wellbeing.*

WORD LIMIT: Answers should be kept to a **250-word maximum** for each response. To ensure fairness among all candidates, we will not print any additional text that exceeds the 250-word limit, as defined by Microsoft Word, per question.. Any text beyond this strict word limit will be left out of the Voter Guides, even if you are mid-sentence, and will be indicated in the published Voter Guides by three dots at the end of the paragraph. We will print the exact responses that are submitted to us and will not correct any typos or other errors in your final submission.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Completed Voter Guides should be returned by email by the **October 5, 2020 deadline**. Voter Guide responses will not be accepted by mail. We will publish all received questionnaires on this date to our online Voter Guide page of the website. If you do not return your questionnaire by this time, we will indicate that no responses were received. We will continue to publish responses received after the initial deadline up until the date of the election.

QUESTION USAGE: We will publish the submitted questionnaires as the Women's Public Policy Network 2020 State General Election Voter Guide, which will be made available on our website at www.womenspublicpolicynetwork.org/voter-guide.

SUBMISSION FORMS: **This is a fillable PDF document, so you can answer questions directly in this document to submit, but you must first download the PDF form to your computer or network drive, and then open it with Adobe Reader and fill it out.** If you prefer, you may also send responses in a word document or in the body of an email. Along with your responses to the three questions of our Voter Guide, we ask that you send us a completed Voter Guide Submission Information Form and headshot, sent as a JPEG, as a part of your submission. If you are submitting your Voter Guide in a separate word document, we ask that you use Times New Roman, size 12 font. Voter Guide responses will not be accepted by mail.

Please return the following questionnaire by 5:00 pm on October 5, 2020

Return by email to:

Erin Ryan at wppnvoterguide@gmail.com

Use subject line 'WPPN Voter Guide Submission_[Candidate Name]'

CANDIDATE VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

ISSUE FOCUS 1: PROMOTING ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

ISSUE OVERVIEW: Even prior to the coronavirus pandemic, women consistently faced barriers within Ohio's labor market, including disproportionate representation in low-security and low-wage jobs. Despite having slightly higher levels of educational attainment than men, women are more likely to work for minimum wage, hold part-time jobs, and live in poverty. The unemployment and economic ramifications of the pandemic have hit women the hardest, particularly women of color. In April, women's overall unemployment reached above 15 percent, which is the highest it has ever been since the Bureau of Labor began reporting data by gender in 1948. For African American and Latinx women, it was even higher at 16.4 percent and 20.2 percent unemployment, respectively.

Additionally, women are more likely to take on caregiving duties for children and other family members, and during the current crisis, women have taken on an even greater share of household and care responsibilities within their families. Moreover, the crisis [threatens to break an already strained child care system](#), and studies have shown that women ages 25-44 are three times as likely as men to not be working during the pandemic due to disrupted childcare arrangements.

Women's systemic labor market barriers threaten their economic security, as well as that of their families. This reality is highly pressing, as women play an increasingly integral role in securing their families' livelihood. Indeed, in 2019, women were the sole, primary, or co-breadwinner in nearly two-thirds of Ohio households, and, within the United States, breadwinning mothers are increasingly the norm. In Ohio, within the last five years, 85 percent of Black mothers, 53 percent of white mothers and 62 percent of Latina mothers were key family breadwinners.

QUESTION 1: What are three policy initiatives you support to promote economic security for women and their families? (250-word limit)

In your response, you may or may not include your stance on a variety of policy issues, including: wages, paid sick leave, paid family and medical leave, childcare, the Earned Income Tax Credit, retirement security, pensions, or housing.

ISSUE FOCUS 2: ENSURING OPPORTUNITY AND FAIRNESS IN THE WORKPLACE

ISSUE OVERVIEW: The family structure has shifted significantly in the last three decades, with women’s workforce participation increasing 35 percent since the early 1970s. At the start of this year, women outnumbered men in the workforce; however, the coronavirus pandemic threatens to roll back women’s advancements in the workforce. This is [especially true for Latinx and Black women who make up a disproportionate share of the unemployed workforce](#) due to their overrepresentation in industries like food service, retail, and hospitality where employers are forced to close entirely or eliminate jobs because of the pandemic.

Despite this increased participation in the workforce before the pandemic, women, particularly those working in the low-wage workforce, continued to face barriers to keeping their employment or advancing in their careers due to outdated workplace policies or workplace discrimination. This fall, as most schools restarted either fully online or a hybrid of online and in person classes, the strain on women workers increased further, and without job flexibility and supportive workplace policies, even more women may be forced to leave the workforce to care for school aged children learning at home because of the pandemic. Pregnancy discrimination - such as being forced out of a job or denied reasonable workplace accommodations at work while pregnant - affects women across race and ethnicity. Yet, women of color and immigrants may be at disproportionate risk due to the greater likelihood of working in jobs with less flexibility and increased physical demands, such as home health aides, food service workers, package delivery or handlers, and cleaners. Additionally, according to research gathered in 2011, half of women in the United States who had experienced sexual assault quit or were forced to leave their jobs within the first year following the assault, leading to an average total lifetime income loss of nearly \$250,000 for an individual.

Since the coronavirus pandemic hit, women have been overrepresented in jobs on the frontlines as essential workers, such as child care workers, grocery store clerks, and restaurant workers, which can put them at a higher risk of exposure to the virus. In Ohio, women make up 67 percent of the state’s frontline workers, 80 percent of healthcare workers, and 85 percent of those employed in child care and social services. Black workers constitute a larger share of workers in all three sectors compared to Ohio’s workforce overall, inherently putting Black workers’ health and livelihood on the line at much higher rates.

QUESTION 2: What are three of your legislative priorities to address issues facing women in the workplace? (250-word limit)

Your answer may or may not touch on your stances on workplace policy issues including: pay equity, protections for pregnant workers, non-discrimination and anti-harassment policies, scheduling laws, collective bargaining, or barriers to career advancement.

ISSUE FOCUS 3: IMPROVING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ISSUE OVERVIEW: Comprehensive healthcare is a critical means to bolster the health and economic security of Ohio women and families; however, it is inaccessible for many. Women of color are more likely to be uninsured, which presents barriers to seeking preventive and primary health care and contributes to persistent health disparities. Nationally, one in five Native American women, one in six Latinx women, and one in ten Black women lacked health coverage before the pandemic, and uninsured rates have increased significantly since the crisis hit.

Health care costs are even higher for women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence, and these elevated costs can continue for as long as 15 years after the incident of abuse. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, with shelter-at-home protocols, rates of intimate partner violence have increased with greater limitations for survivors and victims to seek resources and help.

Finally, although many women presently rely on comprehensive reproductive health services, access is not distributed evenly. Women of color, especially Black women, are disproportionately likely to be denied or unable to access resources, services, and information related to their reproductive health and obstetric care. Even when they can access care, [Black women are more likely to face implicit or explicit bias from medical providers](#), which impacts the care they receive and prevents them from experiencing optimal health, wellbeing, and birth outcomes. The United States is the most dangerous developed nation in the world for women to give birth, and Ohio faces a maternal and infant mortality rate above the national average. Nationally, Black women are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related deaths compared to white women as a result of racial disparities in access to and quality of care; discrimination and implicit bias in the health care system experienced before, during, and after pregnancy; and stress and trauma associated with structural and institutional racism. Increased health risks, changes in protocols and policies at hospitals, and employment in jobs with higher virus exposure during the coronavirus pandemic are all realities that further threaten maternal health outcomes.

QUESTION 3: What are three policy issues you support to improve access to and the affordability of healthcare for women? (250-word limit)

Your answer may or may not include policy solutions related to issues such as the affordability of health care, cultural barriers to health care services, maternal health care and maternal mortality and morbidity, reproductive health care and abortion, sexual and domestic violence and stalking, access to mental health services or healthy relationship education.



VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMISSION INFORMATION FORM

Please return your answers to the questionnaire, along with this submission form, by the **5:00 pm deadline on Monday, October 5, 2020**. The form below indicates that you are granting the Women's Public Policy Network permission to print your responses as written up to the 250-word limit, according to Microsoft Word. Along with these documents, **please send your headshot as a separate JPEG file** to be published with your responses. The completed questionnaires will be published and available on our website at www.womenspublicpolicynetwork.org/voter-guide, beginning Tuesday, October 6, 2020.

Candidate Name: _____

Office: _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Website: _____

(Electronic) Signature or Statement: _____ **Date:** _____

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

Please send your completed questionnaire along with your headshot as a separate JPEG file.

Deadline: 5:00 pm on Monday, October 5, 2020.

Return by email to:

Erin Ryan at wppnvoterguide@gmail.com

Use subject line 'WPPN Voter Guide Submission_[Candidate Name]'

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Contact Erin Ryan at (440) 382-2900 or wppnvoterguide@gmail.com