



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 NAWBO COLUMBUS CANDIDATE FORUM

Lt. Gov. Jon Husted (R):

- **Candidate For:** Is Gov. Mike DeWine's running mate - Incumbent
- **Notable Quote:** "Ohio is a state on the rise. We have to focus on access to capital, building the workforce and housing so that everyone can build their version of the American Dream."
- **On His Focus as Lt. Governor:** Ensure that Ohio has growth-minded policy and focus on bringing venture and growth capital to Ohio via programs to help businesses.

Justice Jennifer Brunner:

- **Candidate For:** Chief Justice of Ohio Supreme Court
- **Notable Quote:** "Leadership experience is very important. Of the justices on the Ohio Supreme Court, only Chief Justice O'Connor and I have managed a statewide office. If you're a good leader, you're going to keep discussions moving. And when you see tension between people, you'll work to help people collaborate instead of clash."
- **On How the Ohio Supreme Court Can Affect Businesses:** Justice Brunner explained that the Ohio Supreme Court can provide predictability and safety in the rule of law, which helps businesses understand what the law is, how it applies, and how it works. "So that a longstanding decision doesn't all of a sudden turn out to be upended and all of a sudden we've lost our rights that we thought we had for 50 years."

Judge Marilyn Zayas:

- **Candidate For:** Ohio Supreme Court
- **Notable Quote:** "For me growing up, all I wanted was a voice. All I wanted was a fair chance. And that's what I take to the court. I know the court is a place where everyone who comes in is looking for a fair chance to be heard. I'm running to get politics out of the Ohio Supreme Court."
- **On How the Ohio Supreme Court Can Affect Businesses:** Judge Zayas explained that there are specialty dockets designed to help people and businesses get on their feet, but not every county has them. The Ohio Supreme Court has authority over policies and procedures of all courts of all 88 Ohio counties to make our system more fair and more equitable.

Judge Terri Jamison:

- **Candidate For:** Ohio Supreme Court
- **Notable Quote:** "I'm the beneficiary of good mentors...and what I learned from that is you have to invest back into other people. I've been very involved in the community and always will be, because that's who I am."
- **On How the Ohio Supreme Court Can Affect Businesses:** Judge Jamison shared how the justice system can impact businesses from the unemployment and workers compensation appeals (at the

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Court of Appeals) to addressing legislation (at the Ohio Supreme Court) that ultimately impacts who you hire and accommodations you might need to make.

Jeff Crossman (D):

- **Candidate For:** Ohio Attorney General
- **Notable Quote:** “We have to stop treating women and minorities like second-class citizens for starters. If we don’t have a business climate in the state where women and minorities want to be here, then they don’t want to stay here. They don’t want to come here. And then you’re not going to have a business climate enough for folks to create the jobs and create the economy we want to have in the state.”
- **On His Priorities If Elected as Attorney General:** Candidate Crossman explained that his top 3 priorities include:
 1. Stop corruption and ensure accountability for public officials.
 2. Protect the middle class. The Ohio Attorney General’s office can affect every aspect of Ohio life from environmental and consumer protection to civil rights.
 3. Ending Ohio’s opioid epidemic via resources for full recovery instead of “prosecuting our way out of an epidemic”.

Sen. Tina Maharath (D):

- **Candidate For:** Ohio Senate District 3 - Incumbent
- **Key Experience:** Sen. Maharath gave an overview of all the legislation and efforts she’s introduced or championed that helps women and minority-owned businesses, including:
 - The passing of SB 130 which certifies all state MBEs to be recognized at local levels
 - Pregnancy Discrimination Act to provide more equality for pregnant women at work that includes accommodating breastfeeding
 - Ohio’s Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Commission to close equity gaps
 - Medicaid expansion for post-partum women up to 1 year
- **On Ensuring the Safety and Nondiscrimination of Minority-Owned Businesses:** Sen. Maharath shared her experiences of discrimination as an Asian American during the pandemic. She’s introduced legislation to condemn the riots of January 6, 2021 as well as legislation to condemn any discrimination related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michele Reynolds (R):

- **Candidate For:** Ohio Senate District 3
- **Key Experience:** Candidate Reynolds shared how her experience as a business owner, nonprofit CEO, and Madison Township Trustee supports women- and minority-owned businesses, including:
 - Created an incubator to help with growth and development of multiple businesses

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- Partnered with the SBA and Fifth-Third Bank to create a monthly business development series
- Worked in the Governor's office as a Director of Faith-Based Initiatives
- Created a citizen advisory committee to promote engagement
- **On Healthcare:** Candidate Reynolds shared her ideas for improving access to healthcare for Ohio businesses to ensure that healthcare is affordable (don't increase taxes on health plans), flexible (business owners need options for employees so that the burden isn't all on the business), and predictable (common sense regulation to reduce market volatility).

Mary Lightbody (D):

- **Candidate For:** Ohio House of Representative District 4 – Incumbent
- **Key Experience:** Rep. Lightbody shared the efforts and legislation she's introduced or championed that supports women- and minority-owned businesses, including:
 - HB110 supporting the state's operating budget
 - SB105 supporting state MBE certification to be recognized at the local level
 - Childcare study committee with a bill to increase the cut off for federally supported childcare
 - Equal Pay Act
 - Bipartisan bills for financial literacy and to recognize November 23 as a day celebrate women and girls in STEM.
- **On Healthcare:** Rep. Lightbody discussed the 9 bills she' introducing to address healthcare issues from ensuring at the state level that insurance companies can't deny pre-existing conditions, to anti-bullying and anti-conversion therapy measures, to prevent the spreading of radioactive brine on our roads in winter.

Jill Rudler (R):

- **Candidate For:** Ohio House of Representative District 4
- **Key Experience & Ideas:** Candidate Rudler shared her experience and ideas for ensuring economic empowerment and safety for women and minority-owned businesses, including:
 - 35 years as a business owner and mentoring other women
 - Ensure that law enforcement and first responders have proper funding and are engaged with the community, are in schools, and know the residents. "I think the first thing we have to do is stop complaining about our law enforcement and first responders."
- **On Healthcare:** Candidate Rudler shared her experience with sky rocketing healthcare costs as a self-employed business owner and that businesses need to be able to offer options, including healthcare sharing programs or giving employees funds to buy their own healthcare.

Russ Harris (D):

- **Candidate For:** Ohio House of Representatives District 10

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- **Key Experience:** Candidate Harris shared his experience that will help him ensure economic empowerment for women- and minority-owned businesses if elected, including:
 - Director of School Funding Studies in Pennsylvania
 - Taught teachers how to teach financial literacy
 - Working for 30 years for the Ohio Education Association to champion financial literacy requirements in the state legislature
 - Board member and treasurer of MY Project USA to empower underprivileged and underserved communities
- **On Healthcare:** “When a risk pool in insurance is too small, there are lots of costs and lots of problems. I would hope that the state and local counties and cities subsidize health insurance in pools that are broader than one county...Increasing the pool means costs go way down. We need to redefine pools and increase public subsidization of premiums.”

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