



GAHANNA CITY COUNCIL AT WORK: MARCH-MAY 2026

YOU'LL FIND:

- Legislation
- Your reps at work
- “Guess Who” winner
- Much more!

Council

N E W S L E T T E R

Subject: Your City Council at Work | Mar-May 2026
Sent: 7/7/2026, 8:58:26 AM
From: City of Gahanna
To: Our Neighbor

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the City of Gahanna. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



Growing in Gahanna

Welcome to the **Spring edition** of the 2026 Gahanna City Council newsletter. Spring brings new life to Gahanna, with budding flowers and outdoor fun, following the winter thaw.

Catch up on recent legislation, community initiatives, and the work your Council is doing to support Gahanna families and businesses.

In this edition, you will find:

- 1. **Legislative highlights**
- 2. **Community features**
- 3. **From the Archives: Guess who?**
- 4. **Member spotlights**
- 5. **In the know**
- 6. **Want to know more?**



Legislative highlights

Bimonthly updates: March-May 2026

Recent Council meetings

Your Council has been busy supporting community priorities. If you missed a meeting, here is a quick overview. Click the links below to see agendas, minutes and more!

- **Regular Meetings:** [Mar. 2](#), [Mar. 16](#), [Apr. 6](#), [Apr. 27](#), [May 4](#), [May 18](#)
- **Committee of the Whole:** [Mar 9](#), [Mar 23](#), [Apr. 6](#), [Apr. 27](#), [May 11](#)
- **Special Meetings:** [May 4](#), [May 11](#), [May 18](#)



Eagle Scout Aiden Combs: 1) [Standing proudly with family](#);
2) [Recognized by City Council via Councilmember Bowers](#)

Honoring community contributions & celebrating civic values

Council celebrated remarkable residents and initiatives, honoring their service, achievements, and impact.

City Council affirms human dignity and belonging for all who call Gahanna home, working toward a safe and welcoming community for everyone - [RES-0060-2025](#).

Click the links below to learn more about recent honorees!

- **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - HONORING LAURA M. FISHER**
 - Legistar: [View RES-0004-2026](#)
- **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH - EAGLE SCOUT AIDEN COMBS**
 - Legistar: [View RES-0011-2026](#)
- **EARTH DAY - AFFIRMING SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**
 - Legistar: [View RES-0012-2026](#)
- **HERB CAPITAL OF OHIO - HERB'N RESTAURANT WEEK**
 - Legistar: [View RES-0013-2026](#)
- **PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**
 - Legistar: [View RES-0014-2026](#)



Visit Gahanna's Herb Day 2026

Legislation



[2026 Charter Review Commission](#)

Community representation

It's your turn!

If you'd like to help shape Gahanna's future, explore openings to serve on volunteer boards. [Visit \(https://onboard.gahanna.gov/\)](https://onboard.gahanna.gov/) today.

Council recently made two such appointments. **Click the links below to learn more about these appointments and other updates:**

- **SELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR GAHANNA NEW COMMUNITY AUTHORITY**
 - Legistar [View: RES-0010-2026](#)
 - **APPOINT MICHAEL MOSELEY TO PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**
 - Legistar [View: MT-0011-2026](#)
 - **APPOINT NICOLAS TOMASSILLI TO GAHANNA NCA**
 - Legistar [View: MT-0012-2026](#)
 - **COUNCIL RULES UPDATES:**
 - Legistar [View: MT-0009-2026](#)
-



Gahanna Area Arts Council initiatives: 1) Bright Blocks;

2) Columbus Jazz Orchestra: LIVE at Headley Park

Supplemental appropriations and fiscal foresight

Council approved legislation optimizing grant opportunities and bond proceeds. City leadership also approved updated purchasing policies, and Gahanna's inclusion in an opioid crisis settlement.

Click the links below to learn about recent community investments:

- **TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR TAX YEAR 2024**
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0002-2026](#)
- **AMENDING PURCHASING PROCEDURES**
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0006-2026](#) & [View: ORD-0015-2026](#)
- **STOP LOSS COVERAGE**
 - Legistar [View: RES-0007-2026](#)
- **GRANT FOR BODY-WORN CAMERA SERVICES**
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0009-2026](#)
- **CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING**
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0012-2026](#)

- BOND INTEREST RELATED TO GAHANNA CIVIC CENTER
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0016-2026](#)
 - REPEAL OF ORD-0045-2021 TO CLARIFY CENTRAL PARK TIF
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0017-2026](#)
 - SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS SETTLEMENT
 - Legistar [View: RES-0009-2026](#)
-



Academy Park

Investing in infrastructure

Council keeps things flowing in Gahanna by approving contracts that support infrastructure in our streets, sanitary and storm sewers and sidewalks. **Click the links below to learn about recent community investments:**

- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FOR ACADEMY PARK IMPROVEMENTS
 - Legistar [View: RES-0005-2026](#)
- REPAIR/ REPLACE VANDAL PROTECTION FENCE ON MCCUTCHEON BRIDGE
 - Legistar [View: RES-0006-2026](#)
- UPDATE SEWERAGE SYSTEM CAPACITY CHARGES
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0008-2026](#)
- 2026 STREET REBUILD & WATERLINE PROGRAM
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0010-2026](#)
- 2026 SANITARY AND STORM SEWER CLEANING PROJECT
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0011-2026](#)
- 2026 SIDEWALK LOOKBACK PROGRAM
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0013-2026](#)
- 2026 STREET AND SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0014-2026](#)



1) Waterline replacement; 2) sidewalk maintenance



Gahanna SROs

Community partnerships

Council voted to support city and community partnerships. Click the links below to learn about recent community investments:

- SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) FOR 2026-2027
 - Legistar [View: RES-0008-2026](#)
- ANNEXATION FROM JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP AT JOHNSTOWN ROAD
 - Legistar [ORD-0007-2026](#)
- APPOINTMENT OF JEFFERSON FIRE CHIEF BRADFORD SHULL & MIFFLIN FIRE CHIEF BRIAN DUNLEVY AS MUNICIPAL FIRE SAFETY INSPECTORS
 - Legistar [View: MT-0010-2026](#)



Hearing from the community
On April 27, 2026, Council invited the community to weigh in on public policy affecting everyday life here in Gahanna. Council held a Public Hearing regarding possible edits to the city’s new zoning code, installed in 2024.

The ordinance was introduced on May 4, recommended for Adoption May 11, Amended on May 18, and finally Adopted as Amended on May 18, 2026.

The changes represented omitted provisions and recommendations from adopted strategic plans. **Click the links below to learn more:**

- **AMENDING SECTIONS OF GAHANNA ZONING CODE**
 - Legistar [View: ORD-0018-2026 \(CC-0001-2026\)](#)

Coming up...

JULY

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

06 JUL
7 PM

REGULAR MEETING

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Immediately following the Regular Meeting

20 JUL
7 PM

REGULAR MEETING

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Immediately following the Regular Meeting

Stay tuned for potential changes to the meeting schedules of Council and other boards and commissions!

Visit [Legistar](#) for complete agendas with legislative details, or sign up for agendas delivered directly to your inbox!



Community features

Celebrating service and engagement in Gahanna

From community partnerships to acts of advocacy and celebration, Gahanna City Council continues to champion community involvement and civic pride.

We are here for you:



Memorial Day 2026 presented by Gahanna Veterans Memorial Committee

Honoring those who served

Councilmembers attended the 2026 **Memorial Day** service hosted by the Gahanna Veterans Memorial Committee. Councilmembers were accompanied by former Councilmember/ former OH Deputy Secretary of State Beryl Anderson.

A **heartfelt thanks** to the **VFW Tri-Community Post # 4719** and American **Legion Post #797** for a wonderful and moving bricklaying and Memorial Day ceremony.

May we **remember and honor the sacrifice** of our brave neighbors in uniform who gave their lives in service to our country.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmembers Bowers and Weaver
- **Dates:** May 2026



Visit Gahanna’s 2026 Spring Showcase

Supporting Gahanna’s businesses

Councilmembers **championed** Gahanna businesses attending the 2026 **Gahanna Economic Summit and Business Celebration** as well as **Visit Gahanna’s 2026 Spring Showcase**.

These events brought together community **leaders** and **entrepreneurs**, showcasing resources for **business growth** and **celebrating** excellence.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and awardees. Gahanna’s economic future is bright.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmembers Padova, Jones, McGregor and Weaver
- **Dates:** May 2026



Gahanna's 2026 Economic Summit & Business Celebration



MORPC's 2026 State of the Region

On the forefront of regional trends

Your City Council is steering Gahanna toward **innovation**. Council leverages **regional trends** to position Gahanna for success.

In March, Councilmembers, accompanied by Planning Commission members and staff, attended the **Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC)** annual **State of the Region** address.

Your **representatives** joined political, business, and civic **leaders** from **across Ohio** to **align** local **efforts** with regional **economic growth**, **sustainability** and development initiatives.

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Ray LaHood** shared insights from his career, emphasizing the importance of **collaboration across party lines**, in pursuit of **progress**.

LaHood is known for his bipartisan stance on infrastructure investment, observing that "*there's no such thing as a Democratic or Republican bridge.*"

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmembers Bowers, Padova, Renner and Weaver
- **Accompanied by:** City Attorney Priya Tamilarasan, Planning Commissioners Pollyea and Greenberg, and staff
- **Dates:** March 2026

From the archives

Brought to you in partnership with local archivist & Deputy Clerk, Sophia McGuire

Guess the elected official!

Think you know Gahanna's history? Here's your chance to prove it. **Be the first** to solve the clue and score local bragging rights, including a shoutout in the next Council



Guess who?

Photo credit: Tom Wilcox, Columbus Citizen-Journal

Challenge #3

In honor of **Women's History Month**, recognized annually in March, we've picked a very special individual.

This official served both as the City of Gahanna **council president** and **mayor**! She was the **first woman** to hold the title of mayor for the City of Gahanna.

Bonus hint: She was **Appointed** in **1982**.

📧 **Think you know the answer?** Email us at: CouncilStaff@Gahanna.Gov; please title your email "**Guess Who?**"

Enter Now



Simeon C. Stone

Last time...

In **March**, we asked readers which former official served as the *elected* clerk of council to **Mayors D. L. Stygler** and **A. A. Beem**, before later being elected as mayor himself!

This was a tough riddle to crack, even with the bonus hint that he served as mayor from 1916-1917!

Congratulations to our winner, **Merri Jo Linton**!

She was the *closest* person to correctly answer our **“Guess the Public Official”** with the correct answer **“Simeon C. Stone.”**

For more than **35 years**, Merri Jo has proudly called **Gahanna home**.



Merri Jo Linton

She enjoys riding bikes with her granddaughters, **Izzy Jo** and **Autumn Rose**, exploring Gahanna's beautiful neighborhoods and parks together.

When Merri Jo's not catching up on the latest **Council Newsletter**, she can usually be found at the **Gahanna Senior Center**, for an exciting round of mahjong!



1921 -Postcard

And an **honorable mention** to **Jeannine Kern**, who narrowly missed a second win!

We appreciate everyone who sent us their answers.

Now it's your turn!

Member spotlights

Councilmember Activities: Learn how our local leaders are making an impact

Leading in advocacy and unity:



Breaking the Silence 2026

Photo Credit: Matt Degue Media

Breaking the Silence

Councilmember Bowers moderated *Breaking the Silence*, a community conversation on domestic violence - April 29.

The event was hosted by **Sophia Pierrelus** and the **New American Cultural Center**.

Experts and community members gathered for an honest discussion about forms of abuse and their lasting impacts on communities.

Bowers commended participants for showing incredible engagement, vulnerability, and courage. Speakers emphasized the importance of education, awareness, and open dialogue in **preventing violence and supporting healing**.

The event marked the beginning of an **ongoing series** exploring the challenges of domestic abuse and ways **communities can work together** to create safer, healthier futures for everyone.

- **Contact for more information: Councilmember Bowers**
- **Date:** April 2026



2026 Women in Leadership Luncheon

Recognizing Women’s History

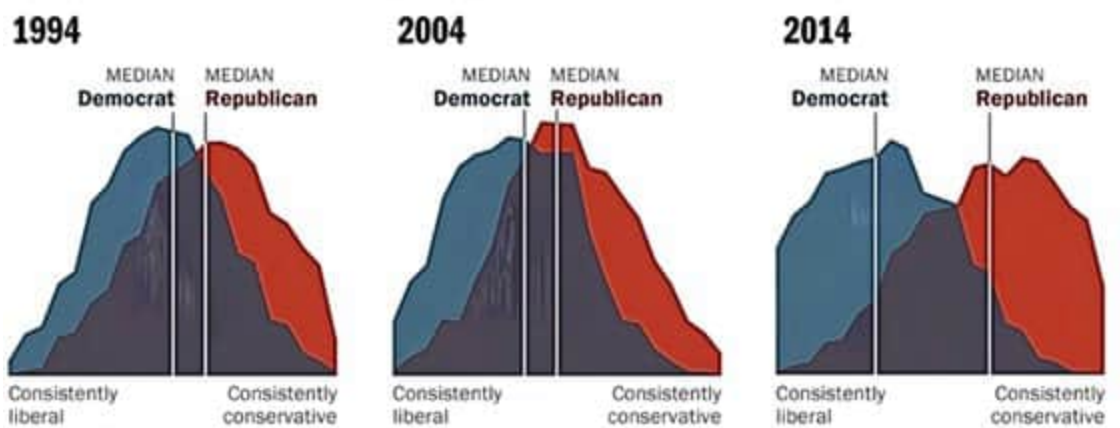
Councilmember Bowers joined women leaders across central Ohio in celebrating International Women’s Day.

The Columbus Chamber Women's Collective held the *Women in Leadership Luncheon*, at the beautiful Columbus Museum of Art.

Bowers applauded the event for creating a platform for thoughtful women in leadership to share their insights and experiences.

Thank you for hosting, Columbus Museum of Art!

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember Bowers
- **Date:** March 2026



Democrats and Republicans More Ideologically Divided than in the Past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values

PEW RESEARCH CENTER - 2014 Political Polarization in the American

Rejecting political polarization

Referencing an article by Pew Research, Councilmember Schnetzer lamented increasingly divisive trends at the national policy level.

In May, Councilmember Schnetzer encouraged residents to resist political tribalism trends and embrace community collaboration.

Schnetzer offered that at the **local level**, we still have an **opportunity to be different**, and to swim against the current.

Drawing on his public service experience, Schnetzer invited neighbors to **prioritize cooperation and function** over division and partisanship.

Schnetzer noted that local government works best when it **focuses on results**, **listening** to differing viewpoints, and **delivering essential services** such as public safety, infrastructure, and parks.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember Schnetzer
- **Date:** May 2026



Earth Day in Gahanna

“Your first duty is to humanity” - Madam C. J. Walker

Sharing stewardship

Councilmember Renner recorded an Earth Day message at the confluence of Rocky Fork Creek and Big Walnut Creek near Friendship Park.

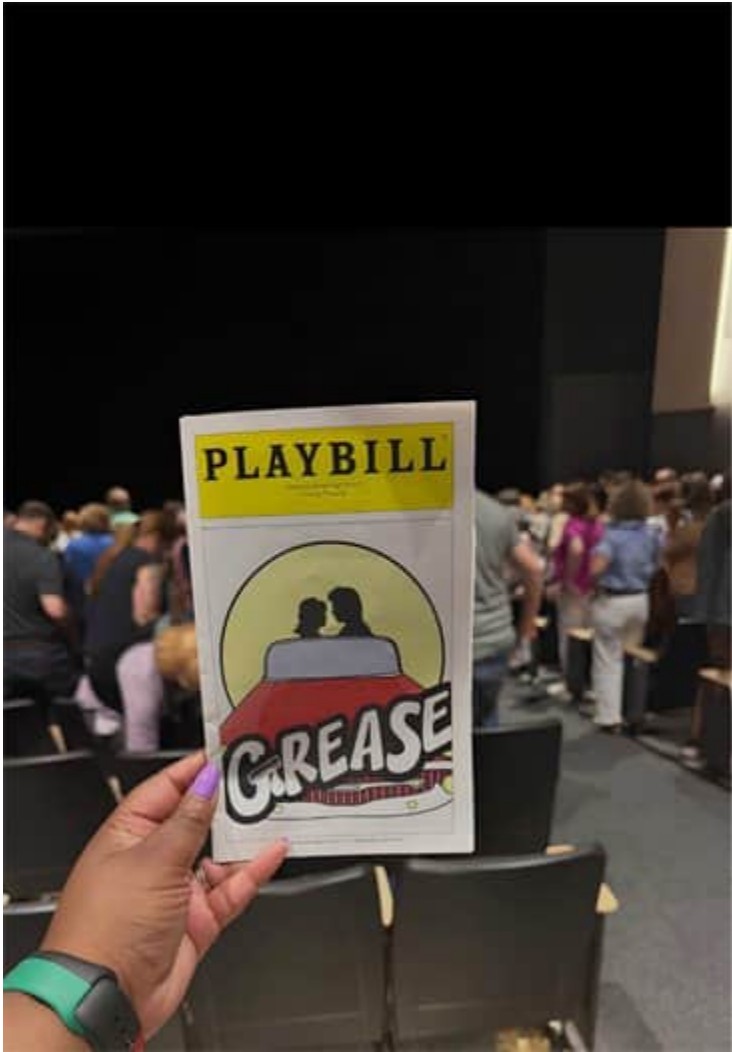
This past **Earth Day**, Councilmember Renner reminded neighbors how closely **community and environment** are **connected**.

Renner shared this year’s Earth Day theme , "**Our Power, Our Planet**," reminding residents that **stewardship** becomes real in the places **we share** together: our streams, our trees, our parks, and our neighborhoods.

Renner **encouraged** people to take **one small step** to care for the place we all share.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember Renner
- **Date:** April 2026

Leading the next generation:



Gahanna Lincoln High School theater's production *Grease*

Supporting the arts
Councilmember Jones attended the first Gahanna Lincoln High School show, *Grease*, in the new state-of-the-art theater.

Jones noted that any professional actor would be envious of the space, confessing she used to be one!

Congratulations students and faculty on the first of many fantastic shows in the new theater!

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember Jones
 - **Date:** April 2026
-



St. Matthew 2026 Speech Contest

Celebrating our students
Councilmember McGregor served as a guest judge at St. Matthew's Middle School.

This April, McGregor **supported budding local leaders**, recognizing students for their courage, preparation, and hard work as they delivered presentations during the **annual speech contest**.

We congratulate all participants and their families on their commendable performances and celebrate the contest winners:

1. **Jacob**
 2. **Caleb**
 3. **Lexi**
- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember McGregor
 - **Date:** April 2026
-



Inviting our kids to help
Councilmember Padova volunteered for Make Gahanna Yours' Cleaner Greener Gahanna Litter Cleanup.

In April, Padova and her family joined neighbors and friends in cleaning the path between **Friendship Park** and the **Creekside** fountains.

By inviting her daughter to serve alongside her, Padova modeled **civic citizenship** and helped **preserve Gahanna's beauty** for future generations.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember Padova
- **Date:** April 2026



Scouting America Pack 898

Mentoring future leaders
Councilmembers Renner and Bowers modeled leadership in public service.

Councilmember Renner visited with students from **Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service**, sharing how the **MSSR program** continues to **shape** his approach to **leadership, sustainability, resilience, and public service.**

Bowers welcomed **Scouting America Pack 898** to City Hall, speaking with scouts about local government, community leadership, and the capital projects shaping Gahanna's future.

Bowers **commended the scouts'** curiosity and engagement, sharing that **Gahanna is strong because of those who choose to serve.** While the work is not always glamorous, the investment benefits generations to come.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmembers Renner and Bowers
- **Date:** April 2026



Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service - Interview

Leading in community connections:

Looking for something new to enjoy in Gahanna?

Your City Councilmembers are big fans of the people, places and programs that make Gahanna so special.

While you'll often find them hard at work in Council Chambers, you can also spot them exploring local treasures and supporting community favorites throughout the city.



P&R Goat Yoga

Kidding around

Councilmember Padova tried a goat yoga class through Gahanna Parks & Recreation.

Padova enjoyed a unique outdoor experience alongside goats and an unexpected piglet! Growing up, she showed pigs at the county fair and even had a pet goat for a short time, making the event a fun trip down memory lane.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember Padova
- **Date:** May 2026



Heartland Hospice

Welcoming community growth

President Weaver was honored to join in the ribbon cutting and welcoming of Heartland Hospice to the city of Gahanna.

Their compassion and care with dignity will serve our community well. Thanks to the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce for the invitation and coordination of the event.

We wish all of our new business continued success in serving our community.

- **Contact for more information:** President Weaver
- **Date:** April 2026



P&R Kayaking 101

Making a splash

Councilmember Bowers explored Kayaking 101 with her son.

Bowers and her son joined a Parks & Recreation's **Kayaking 101** session at **Hannah Park**. The program offered residents an opportunity to learn **new skills** while enjoying one of Gahanna's **natural amenities**.

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember Bowers
- **Date:** 2026



Ohio History Connection

Celebrating history

Councilmember McGregor joined fellow history enthusiasts at the Gahanna Library.

McGregor joined fellow history buffs for the **Ohio Local History Alliance's meeting**, hosted by local affiliate **Gahanna Historical Society**, supporting opportunities for residents to connect with and learn from Ohio's rich history.

Keep an eye out for upcoming events celebrating America 250!

- **Contact for more information:** Councilmember McGregor
- **Date:** March 2026

Want to learn more?

In the know

Stay connected with your City Council!

We would love to hear from you! Stay engaged by reaching out to your Councilmembers, attending meetings, or joining a community event. Contact information for Councilmembers is included below.



CONSTITUENT
HOURS

By Appointment

Meet the Council Office

Here for you!



Stephen Renner



Michael Schnetzer



Kaylee Padova



Trenton Weaver



Merisa Bowers



Jamille Jones



Nancy McGregor

Say hello today!

Ward Representatives

Stephen Renner II Ward One II Finance Chair
614.316.1280 ||Stephen.Renner@Gahanna.Gov

Michael Schnetzer II Ward Two
614.532.5644 ||Michael.Schnetzer@Gahanna.Gov

Kaylee Padova II Ward Three
740.207.1027 ||Kaylee.Padova@Gahanna.Gov

Trenton Weaver II Ward Four II President
614.946.7655 ||Trenton.Weaver@Gahanna.Gov

Members at Large

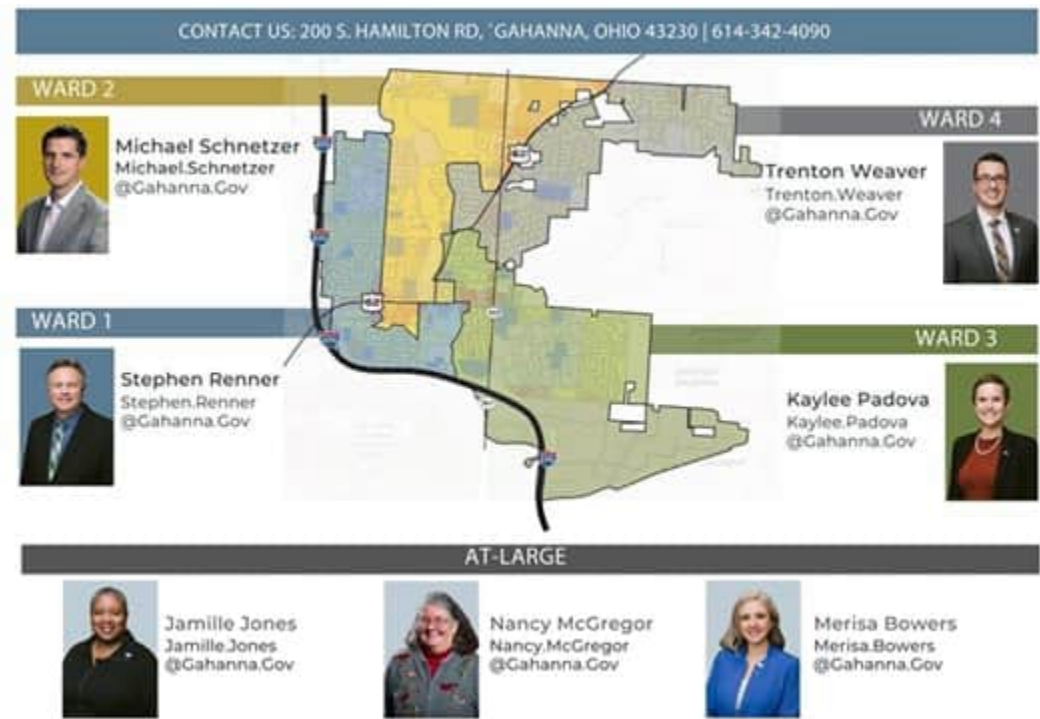
Merisa Bowers
614.342.0040 ||Merisa.Bowers@Gahanna.Gov

Jamille Jones II Vice President
614.349.8566 ||Jamille.Jones@Gahanna.Gov

Nancy McGregor
614-440-2715 || Nancy.McGregor@Gahanna.gov



Ward Map



Connect with your local Councilmember

Gahanna has four Council wards. For those unsure of which ward they live in, the Council Office is happy to share an easy-to-use ward map, to help residents connect with their representatives. This tool is all about making local government more accessible. [Plug in your address to find your Councilmember here!](#)

Supporting Council and community

Council Office staff

Jeremy VanMeter II Clerk of Council
614.342.4091 || Jeremy.VanMeter@Gahanna.Gov

Sophia McGuire II Deputy Clerk of Council
614.342.4092 || Sophia.McGuire@Gahanna.Gov

Jessica Hilts II Management Analyst - Comms & Research
614.342.4093 || Jessica.Hilts@Gahanna.gov

City Hall Office
200 S. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, OH 43230
614.342.4090 || CouncilStaff@Gahanna.Gov



Clerk VanMeter, CMC



Clerk McGuire, MLS, CRA



Clerk Hilts, MMC

Want to know more?

Get connected

- **Subscribe today!**
 1. [City News](#)
 2. [Agendas for Public Meetings](#)
- **Can't make it in person?** [View streamed meetings on the city's YouTube channel.](#)

Resources

- [Learn about the many resources awaiting you](#)
- [Find the answer to many Frequently Asked Questions](#)

You are receiving this email because you have subscribed to City of Gahanna civic resources. If you do not wish to receive future communications, [you may unsubscribe at any time by clicking here.](#)

Until next time—thank you for reading,

Jessica Hilts, MMC
Management Analyst for City Council
Connecting Council and community

 [Share on Facebook](#)

 [Share on Twitter](#)

 [Share via Email](#)

Copyright 2024 Gahanna OH. All Rights Reserved.
200 South Hamilton Road, Gahanna, OH, 43230

Powered by
 **CIVICSEND**
A Product of CivicPlus

If you no longer wish to receive emails from us, you may [Unsubscribe](#).

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)