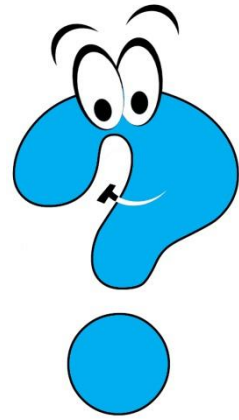


Why Can't I Vote those Candidates or Issues? The Simple Facts May Not Be so Simple.



We'll cover a General Election since November is coming up soon but let's face it voting is complicated and understanding the voting process becomes even more entangled.

OK, a General Election works like this:

If there are Federal (Country wide) candidates or issues everyone in Fairfield County has the opportunity to vote on them. If there are State wide candidates or issues everyone in Fairfield County has the opportunity to vote on them as well.

Now comes the tricky part; about half of Fairfield County lives in House of Representatives District 77 and the other half live in District 78. For example: Voters who live within District 77 where a candidate is running can vote on that candidate and the other half (District 78) cannot. Vice versa, District 78 voters would be able to vote on the candidate in District 78 if a candidate were running but not on District 77's candidate.

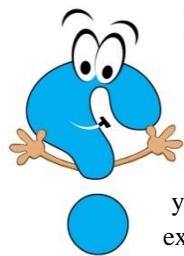
Whew! Now that we have that covered, let's move on. All of Fairfield County resides inside Senate District 20, Congressional District 15, State Court of Appeals District 5 and State Board of Education District 9, so any candidate or issue running in those district races would be in a county wide race, meaning every voter in Fairfield County would have the opportunity to cast their vote for those candidate(s) and issue(s).

Now we're down to precincts and issues at a local level. For example: If a candidate is running in a city wide race in Lancaster or if there is a city wide Issue in Lancaster then anyone who resides outside a LAN precinct cannot vote on those candidates or issues. The same goes for the Lancaster City Precincts (LAN's). They cannot vote for township or village issues or candidates, nor can they vote for another's city issues such as Columbus City precincts that fall within Fairfield County. The only candidates or issues that can be voted on for your precinct (at a local level) are ones that represent or affect your precinct's community. It is unlawful to vote in a precinct you don't reside in.

Here's an example:

Let's say Berne Twp. has an issue on the ballot. Only Berne Twp. precincts can vote on the issue (BE-A, BE-B, BE-C and BE-D). Not only is it illegal, for let's say, Walnut Twp. to vote for a Berne Twp. issue, but they won't benefit or be affected from the result in any way.

The Bottom Line



Precincts and district boundaries are set up to ensure you are not paying for an entitlement (tax or bond) or electing candidates that you are not receiving representation from, whether it's taxes to pay for new fire equipment or representation from your Senator. If you live in Rushville you can't call a Lancaster, City squad to come help you in an emergency, nor can a Lancaster City precinct resident call on a Township Fire Dept. If you could call on any department county wide, you would pay taxes for every precinct that has tax representation across the county. Here's an example: If you live in Lancaster City Ward 5 and need to contact your Ward Council Member, you wouldn't contact Ward 1 or Ward 6 Council because they don't represent your ward. You'd need to contact your 5th Ward Council. The same goes for the example above with Districts 77 & 78 representatives.

County Wide Candidate(s) and/or Issue(s)

Federal = Every Registered Voter in Fairfield Co. has the opportunity to vote for federal candidate(s) or Issue(s).

State Wide = Every Registered Voter in Fairfield Co. has the opportunity to vote state candidates or issue(s).

State Senate District 20 = Every Registered Voter in Fairfield Co. has the opportunity to vote the candidate(s).

State Congressional District 15 = Every Registered Voter in Fairfield Co. has the opportunity to vote the candidate(s).

State Court of Appeals District 5 = Every Registered Voter in Fairfield Co. has the opportunity to vote the candidate(s).

State Board of Education District 9 = Every Registered Voter in Fairfield Co. has the opportunity to vote the candidate(s) or Issue(s).

District Specific Candidate(s)

House of Representatives

District 78 = Every Registered Voter *within the specific district* have the opportunity to vote on the candidate(s) contained by the given district.

District 77 = Every Registered Voter *within the specific district* have the opportunity to vote on the candidate(s) contained by the given district.

Precinct Specific Candidate(s) and/or Issue(s)

City Wide = Every Registered Voter *within the City Precincts* where the candidate(s) or issue(s) are contained have the opportunity to vote the given candidate(s) and/or issue(s).

City Ward = Every Registered Voter *within the specific ward* where the candidate(s) are contained have the opportunity to vote the given candidate(s).

County Precinct

Central Committee = Every Registered Voter *within the specific precinct* where the candidate(s) are contained have the opportunity to vote the given candidate(s).

Local Options = Every Registered Voter *within the specific precinct* where the Local Option is contained have the opportunity to vote the given issue(s).

Local or City School District Issues

School District can cross precinct lines. For example: If your child attends Lancaster City Schools your precinct may or may not be a LAN precinct but you have the right to vote on issues pertaining to Lancaster City Schools because you live within and pay taxes for that school district. On the other hand you may have a Lancaster address but don't live in the Lancaster City School District which means you would not vote on a Lancaster City School Issue, nor would you pay Lancaster City School taxes. You live within a different school district.

Local or City School Dist. Issue(s) = Every Registered Voter *within the specific School District* where issue(s) are contained have the opportunity to vote the given issue(s).

Library Issues

Libraries Districts are also set by whom they service. For example, Fairfield County District Library services all of Fairfield Co. except Pickerington (which have their own library service), Reynoldsburg and Columbus precincts (that fall under the Columbus Library services) and Southwest Licking (serviced by Licking Co.). If there is a tax levy for the Fairfield District Library, the Pickerington, Reynoldsburg, Columbus and Southwest Licking precincts would not be able to vote the issue.

*Township and Village Candidate(s) and/or Issue(s)

Township = Every Registered Voter *within the specific township* where the candidate(s) and/or issue(s) are contained have the opportunity to vote the given candidate(s) and/or issue(s).



Village = Every Registered Voter *within the specific village* where the candidate(s) and/or issue(s) are contained have the opportunity to vote the given candidate(s) and/or issue(s).

***Note:** On certain Township and Village issues there may be an overlap vote. For example, if a Fire Department provides service to a township and two villages, all precincts where that service is provided may vote on the issues pertaining to the fire department. In example, Berne Twp. Fire Department services both the Township of Berne and the Village of Sugar Grove.