

## **CITY OF COLUMBUS**

**Mayor** (1 to be elected)

### **Questions for Mayor**

**Question 1:** What will be your one or two priorities if elected Mayor? Why? (100 word limit)

**Question 2:** What should the city's role be in the economic development and urban renewal? (100 word limit)

**Michael B. Coleman**, 1362 Haddon Rd., 43209

**Email:** krhardin@columbus.gov **Website:** www.colemanforcolumbus.com  
www.columbus.gov

**Education:** BA, University of Cincinnati; JD, University of Dayton Law School

**Occupation:** Mayor, City of Columbus

**Qualifications for Office:** With over 15 years of experience in public service to the City of Columbus, I have served our residents in several capacities. After my appointment to City Council in 1992, I was elected for two additional (over world limit)

**Question 1:** While we are one of America's safest cities, and crime is down since 2000, this will always be our top priority. I will aggressively fight crime through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood safety that includes hiring more Police Officers, engaging residents, and innovative strategies like my Anti-Gang Initiative and Summer Strike Force. The City must be a partner with the business community to grow the economy. Even as Ohio's economy remains sluggish, Columbus leads the state in creating jobs and building the workforce. Since 2000, we've created and retained 27,400 jobs and leverage \$3.8 billion dollars in private investment.

**Question 2:** We must focus on neighborhoods' quality of life as we grow outward with a plan and inward with a passion. A cornerstone in improving the quality of life is to invest in quality, affordable housing, and focusing on removing blight through Neighborhood Pride tours and the \$25 million Home Again program. We are bringing hope, investment, new infrastructure and more than 12,000 new homes to neighborhoods like Northland, Linden, Parsons Avenue, Franklinton, South Campus, the King Lincoln District, and others. In addition, some 4,200 new apartments and condos are being developed downtown spurring a new excitement for urban living.

**Bill Todd**, 6911 Lauren Pl., 43235

**Email:** bill@votebilltodd.com **Website:** www.votebilltodd.com

**Education:** University of Notre Dame, 1973, B.A.; The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, 1976, J.D.

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Qualifications for Office:** I have over 30 years of experience focusing on health care law, elections, and ethics. My experience includes matters involving the federal Help America Vote Act and drafting campaign finance reform.

**Question 1:** Despite miniscule improvements, Columbus schools are failing our children –in fact, 59 to be exact. Our high school graduation rate is below state averages. Mike Coleman says the schools are not his responsibility. I disagree. As Mayor, I will lead an effort to transfer control of the Columbus Public Schools to the Mayor and boost

performance in all of our schools. We need leadership from the Mayor's office to help turn around the Columbus Public Schools. It is commonly understood that top-flight schools are a key element in any major city's ability to be attract jobs and strengthen its economy.

**Question 2:** Columbus's employment rate has fallen to its lowest level in two years. Major employers are cutting jobs -22,000 in the retail sector alone. Columbus City Center and its hundreds of jobs were allowed to die on the vine. Urban residents seeking jobs are often left in the cold. We need leadership to turn around our schools. It is commonly understood that top-flight schools are a key element in any major city's ability to be attract jobs and strengthen its economy. As Mayor, I will be responsible our schools –and I will link a strong education system to jobs and development.

**Member of Council** (4 to be elected) (full term)

**Questions for Member of Council**

**Question 1:** What will be your top one or two priorities if elected to City Council? Why? (100 word limit)

**Question 2:** What should the city's role be in economic development and urban renewal? (100 word limit)

**Paul D. Bingle**, 408 E. Schreyer Pl. 43214

**Email:** [victory2007@paulbingle.com](mailto:victory2007@paulbingle.com)

**Website:** [www.paulbingle.com](http://www.paulbingle.com)

**Education:** Bachelor of Social Work, Capital University 1976

**Occupation:** CEO & Executive Director, Earth Share of Ohio

**Qualifications for Office:** 30-years of time tested service in quality of life impacting activities and Columbus neighborhood leadership. Comprehensive knowledge of City Hall and City issues. Proficient in thoughtful problem solving and implementing consensus- developed solutions.

**Question 1:** Foremost, working to ensure that the City is fully leveraging the resources of its available funds and employees to provide superior and responsive public service to the residents and businesses of this great American city. Secondly, supporting the City's leadership role in growing the economic health of the Central Ohio region and in maintaining safe, dynamic, and attractive neighborhoods that allow the region to be a preferred location in which to reside, work, and to play. These are the core duties of this city. These are the fundamental challenges of Columbus's ability to remain a strong and vibrant city.

**Question 2:** A complex question meriting a longer response: The City should lead by facilitating private sector investment in economic growth activities –but it must be conservative in trading valued tax revenues. Caution must be exercised in creating an unaffordable expectation that the City will, or must always provide lead dollars. Conversely, consideration must be given to the economic growth risks if they City does not provide project support, such as via public infrastructure improvements. The City's overall economic health is a critical point of focus if the City is to have sufficient operational revenues to conduct basic and enhanced city services.

**Bill Brownson**, 328 W. 6th Ave., 43201

**Email:** [brownsonforcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:brownsonforcouncil@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [www.brownsonforcouncil.com](http://www.brownsonforcouncil.com)

**Education:** BS, The Ohio State University; MBA, Fisher College, The Ohio State University

**Occupation:** Wealth Advisor, JPMorgan Chase

**Qualifications for Office:** 25 year resident of Columbus; 20 years of business and financial experience; Homeowner; Circles Neighborhood Association representative; Proven leadership through board positions with religious, nonprofit and political organizations.

**Question 1:** Jobs. Economic development will be my number one priority. For too long Columbus has taken for granted public sector jobs and those from major employers. We have been largely insulated from losses in manufacturing. A wave of private equity activity threatens to separate long-time ties to the region of major employers like Wendy's and Limited Brands. Crime. Too many people in too many neighborhoods aren't feeling as safe as they used to. Couple that with the well known challenge of replacing a significant portion of retiring police officers and we have another major issue on which I will focus.

**Question 2:** The city is uniquely positioned to understand and advance these issues. Columbus must be a welcoming place to start and grow businesses. It should also be responsive to existing business needs and use its resources to assist in their growth. Children's Hospital's expansion is an example of something great that could have been handled better if the city was effectively engage in all project stages. The city plays a key role in urban renewal. Along with council, partnering with neighborhoods, developers and existing businesses to ensure all parties are in good communication so projects are successful is critical.

*Hearcel F. Craig*, 5944 Shana Dr., 43232

**Email:** [lmhensley@columbus.gov](mailto:lmhensley@columbus.gov) **Website:** [www.hearcelcraig.com](http://www.hearcelcraig.com)  
[www.columbus.gov](http://www.columbus.gov)

**Education:** Craig earned a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University and is currently working on a Master of Divinity degree from the Ashland Theological Seminary. He was a Join Together National Leadership Fellow at Boston University School of Public Health.

**Occupation:** City Council, City of Columbus

**Qualifications for Office:** Hearcel Craig's (over word limit)

**Question 1:** Fully supporting our safety forces by investing in new technology, equipment, and training programs. We must continue developing prevention strategies to keep our neighborhoods safe, including the Summer Strike Task Force, antitruancy programs, anti-gang initiatives, and expanding Community Crime Patrol. Maintaining a strong economy requires the City to collaborate with various partners in the public sectors to develop a highly educated and skilled workforce. While most urban areas have lost jobs, Columbus has continued to add jobs and City Council will strive to foster the "creative economy" and develop our area into a major transportation and logistics hub.

**Question 2:** Columbus already serves an integral role and should continue to do so. We employ various tools to attract jobs and rebuild neighborhoods-from incentive programs to investment in public infrastructure and maintaining safety services, to ensuring that targeted code enforcement helps eliminate blight. The future labor market will require

City government to pay more attention to workforce development and education factors than ever before. Our collaboration with local colleges, universities, school districts, and other partners must emphasize internships, school-to-work programs, re-education, and technical training to prepare our citizens for jobs that will pay a livable wage in the decades ahead.

**Andrew J. Ginther**, 98 Montrose Way, 43214

**Email:** AGinther@Triumphcomm.com **Website:** www.AndrewGinther.com

**Education:** B.A. Political Science, Earlham College

**Occupation:** Triumph Communications, Inc.; Coordinator of Community Relations

**Qualifications for Office:** Chair, Columbus City Council Public Safety Committee; Chair, Columbus City Council Public Utilities Committee; Columbus Board of Education (2001-2007); Leadership Columbus Graduate; Central Ohio Chapter of the NAACP; Kids Voting of Central Ohio Honorary Board

**Question 1:** Public safety and education are two of the most important issues facing Columbus today, and my top two priorities if elected. Safe neighborhoods are essential to effective learning, job creation, economic development and attracting and retaining talented young professionals, and it is imperative that we create a safe environment for our children to learn and grow. We must continue to invest our tax dollars wisely to put more police officers on the street, and to giving our police and firefighters the tools they need to make Columbus America's safest big city.

**Question 2:** As Columbus prepares for its bicentennial, we must continue to invest in mixed-use development, affordable housing and the amenities that make urban living desirable. This includes continued public-private investment in parks and the arts community, and supporting public policy that will feed the downtown economy and create jobs. We must also continue to work to tie our urban communities together by building neighborhoods, not just developments, and by investing in a more efficient and effective system of mass transit that lessens our dependence on personal vehicles, contributes to a more pedestrian friendly environment and connects Columbus' many diverse neighborhoods.

**Michael C. Mentel**, 22 Preston Rd., 43209

**Email:** zach.roberts1@gmail.com **Website:** michaelmentel.com

**Education:** B.A. Capital; J.D. Capital

**Occupation:** Columbus City Council

**Qualifications for Office:** 8 years on council. Unanimously elected as council president in Jan. 07. Involved with charity newsies

**Question 1:** As President of Columbus City Council, I am committed to working with our citizens and our neighborhoods to enhance public safety and generate further jobs and economic development for our residents. Columbus has the lowest combined taxes of any major city in Ohio and the highest bond credit rating of any large city in the entire nation. My goal is to continue collaborating with my colleagues on Council to maintain this strong record of fiscal responsibility while also providing all the necessary resources for our safety forces and other necessary city resources for a growing Columbus.

**Question 2:** City Council must continue the concept of reinventing Columbus by developing various incentive programs that encourage public/private partnerships. The

Arena District, the Short North revitalization, the Gateway project at OSU, the new Time Warner facility at Gowdy Field, the Polaris Center, and a long list of similar projects –all involved the City using tax increment financing, capital investments, and/or tax incentives to stimulate private investment for underutilized property and create jobs for Columbus residents. The judicious use of city incentives and vigorously seeking private partnerships for community revitalization are the basis for economically successful cities such as Columbus.

*Jim O’Grady*, 9231 Echo Hill Ct., 43240

**Email:** None given. **Website:** None given.

**Education:** Bachelors degree Ohio Dominican College; Juris Doctorate Capital University Law School

**Occupation:** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Juvenile Division Franklin County Prosecutors Office

**Qualifications for Office:** Lifelong resident of Columbus and graduate of the Columbus City Schools. Fifteen years experience in the criminal justice system. Current Assistant County Prosecutor. Former City employee familiar with the operation (over word limit)

**Question 1:** No response given.

**Question 2:** No response given.

*Charleta B. Tavares*, 1237 Medford Rd., 43209

**Email:** citizens4tavares@yahoo.com **Website:** citizensfortavares.com or charletatavares.com

**Education:** Eastmoor High School, Spelman College and OSU

**Occupation:** Executive Director, Mutliethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence

**Qualifications for Office:** Committed public/community servant: experienced policy-maker; strong record of accomplishments and; results-oriented. I have received virtually all of the endorsements from: labor, advocacy, cultural organizations and; received many faith, health, human services and housing awards.

**Question 1:** As Health, Housing and Human Services and Workforce Development Committees chair, I understand the need to provide for the health, safety and welfare of our residents. Ensuring basic needs are met is critical to preparing our children for learning and adults for work, education & training. Extending health care coverage and accessibility to our residents ensures that they are safe/healthy and prepared for learning and work opportunities. Expanding housing opportunities to: meet the needs of seniors, low-moderate income residents & workers; provide residents with housing choices; develop vibrant diverse neighborhoods; and meet the basic needs of individuals and families.

**Question 2:** Urban renewal and economic development go hand-in-hand. Private investment will help to prevent blighted neighborhoods. I have and will continue to support Columbus’ investment in strip commercial districts and initiated the use of capital bond financing to create the Housing Preservation Fund to fund housing construction/ renovation projects in adjacent neighborhoods. I have also taken the lead on Council for workforce development programs, after-school activities, and mentoring programs, and public/ private internships. Educational and social service programs help

to prepare our residents for the jobs of the future and are as important as targeted investments in logistics, research parks and (over word limit)

**Larry W. Thomas**, 695 Groton Pl., 43213

**Email:** lwidt@sbc.global.net **Website:** citizensforlarrythomas.com

**Education:** BA Ohio Dominican college 1984; JD Capital University Law School 1986

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Qualifications for Office:** I am a lifelong resident of Columbus, Ohio. I am a proud product of Columbus Public Schools. I have a law practice with my wife in the Mt. Vernon Plaza. I volunteer on numerous boards and am a (over word limit)

**Question 1:** I hope to accomplish many things if I am afforded the office of Columbus City Council. I hope my most important achievement will be stemming the increased amount of violent criminal activity within Columbus. More troubling is the increased amount of juvenile crime. These juvenile offenders are burdening our justice system and our families. They are often lost in the system and when they are returned to society they often repeat their mistakes. We need to reach out with organizations and programs aimed at strengthening family bonds and civic pride.

**Question 2:** I also hope to accomplish development in Columbus neighborhoods not just downtown. I want to channel an equitable amount of resources and develop our entire city. Our city needs a fuel-efficient green form of public transportation that can accommodate the entire city and grow as Columbus grows. I also believe strengthening local business should be a priority. We need to award more contracts to small and minority owned businesses. These businesses constitute a hefty percentage of working Central Ohioans and we must level the playing field so these businesses are not lost in the shadows of their large counterparts.

(write-in) **Joshua Williams**, 4634 Belvadere Park, 43228

**Unexpired term ending 12/31/2009** (1 to be elected)

**Heidi M. Samuel**, 3062 Dale Ave., 43209

**Email:** heidi@HeidiSamuel.com **Website:** www.heidisamuel.com

**Education:** Ohio State University: Bachelor of Arts, History; Canadian Academy: Kobe, Japan

**Occupation:** Current economic development chair & past president, Eastmoor Civic Association & Blockwatch; previous owner events planning business serving health information industry.

**Qualifications for Office:** Proven, effective neighborhood leader; transportation and economic development planning experience; dedicated to needs and challenges of Columbus neighborhoods.

**Question 1:** Protect. Boost public safety to enter our 2012 bicentennial ranked nationally as one of the ten safest big cities. Currently, Columbus ranks the 9<sup>th</sup> most dangerous big city in the country\*. We bandage-patch police and fire shortfalls, repair expired vehicles and pay overtime instead of replacing outdated equipment and hiring new officers. Preserve. Boost our code enforcement program to partner with neighborhoods and identify solutions that address the top violations plaguing neighborhoods and corroding

the city standard. Improve. Improve outreach and service to meet the needs and challenges of our city's neighborhoods. Neighborhood groups deserve respect, partnership and better communication.

**Question 2:** The city's role is two-fold. It must work cooperatively with surrounding municipalities on a regional scale to promote Columbus and attract new businesses and a professional work force. Equally, it must place emphasis on maintaining an intact central city by ensuring an environment conducive to economic development and urban renewal, namely ensuring adequate public safety, enforcement of city codes and the public standard, and maintenance of infrastructure –streets, storm and sewer systems and public right-of-way. Without attention to these fundamental issues, we risk losing city residents and prospects in search of higher quality of life standards outside the city.

**Priscilla R. Tyson**, 268 S. Harding Rd., 43209

**Email:** starartsltd@aol.com **Website:** www.tysonforcouncil.com

**Education:** B.A., Business Administration Franklin University

**Occupation:** Business Owner

**Qualifications for Office:** 29 years of community related leadership and professional work experience. Founded Columbus City Year, founded Star Arts Ltd, an art gallery which I own and manage; 13 years on the Columbus Civil Service Commission, former Vice President of Ohio Health, and former Vice (over word limit)

**Question 1:** During the sessions of my on-going Walk & Talk program, I have met numerous residents and learned that my priorities are also their priorities: we all want a strong educational system and safe neighborhoods. As Chair of City Council's recreation and Parks Committee and the Administration Committee, I have advanced many initiatives related to public safety and education –from working to ensure that our bike paths, parks, and recreation centers are safe, to providing nutritious meals for school children through the Summer Food Services program –and I will continue to be responsive to our community's needs.

**Question 2:** The City's role is to be proactive in building the framework for private investment to thrive in all our neighborhoods. Revitalizing residential and commercial districts by providing capital improvements, excellent police and fire service, and neighborhood code enforcement are all part of this framework. Infrastructural improvements and responsible tax incentives are examples of how we create partnership with the private sector. As chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, I am personally committed to supporting our park system and urban amenity programs to attract talented and skilled workers to Columbus and retain graduates from local colleges, universities, and high schools.