

# The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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## CEA endorsements

Teachers for Better Schools (TBS), the political action arm of CEA, the CEA Board of Governors and the CEA Legislative Assembly have made their decisions on which state-wide candidates to endorse. The TBS process is respected by elected officials, and it is one way you have a voice. CEA does not use any dues money to promote individual candidates. Instead, CEA members can contribute by payroll deduction to TBS. CEA is endorsing the following state-wide candidates in the Nov. 4 General Election:

### Governor and Lt. Governor:

#### Ed FitzGerald and Sharen Neuhardt

CEA is endorsing Ed FitzGerald for Ohio governor; he is running with Dayton attorney Sharen Neuhardt for lieutenant governor. As Cuyahoga County Executive, FitzGerald made unprecedented investments in our children and our educators. With investment from business leaders, he implemented a universal preschool program and created the largest college-affordability program in the country. FitzGerald also stood by teachers in the fight against Senate Bill 5. Whether it is early education, college affordability, or taking care of our teachers, Ed FitzGerald has the experience to make Ohio's education system work for everyone. Neuhardt is a women's health advocate who also plans to spearhead innovative public/private partnerships in order to spur job creation and economic growth.



Ed FitzGerald



Sharen Neuhardt

### Auditor of State: John Patrick Carney

As an Ohio Representative for Columbus' 22nd District, John has worked to pass bipartisan policies that benefit central Ohio's working families. As a member of the Finance and Appropriations Committee, John has been part of strategic planning for Ohio's financial future, overseeing the allocation of taxpayer dollars for important short- and long-term projects. His top priority was economic development. He supported programs like Third Frontier—which has already created 41,300 jobs. He also co-sponsored HB 48 (129 GA), which made Ohio more competitive by updating some of the state's business regulations. Carney also introduced the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children Act, which improved school nutrition requirements and promoted exercise. As auditor, Carney, who also is an attorney specializing in healthcare issues, wants to help local governments thrive through collaborative agreements to assist them fund vital services.



John Patrick Carney

### Ohio Treasurer: Connie Pillich

MSNBC named Pillich one of "30 in 30" women candidates to watch this election. An Air Force veteran with eight years of active duty, Pillich, serving Montgomery County's 28th Ohio House District, is a ranking member of the Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs. Her No. 1 priority, if elected, would be to safeguard Ohio's tax dollars and protect the state's pensions. This includes developing programs to improve financial literacy in Ohio so that hard-working families are better able to save for retirement. Pillich also opposes "Right-to-Work" initiatives. Pillich is a lawyer who worked as a public defender and then ran her own practice, successfully challenging predatory lenders before the Ohio Supreme Court. As a legislator, Pillich fought to restore lost funding for schools, keeping police and firefighters on the job, connecting veterans to their benefits and protecting Ohio's workers.



Connie Pillich

### Secretary of State: Nina Turner

As Ohio's 25th District state senator serving communities in northeast Ohio, Turner gained a reputation for protecting Ohioans' rights, including protecting women's healthcare freedom and working to defeat Senate Bill 5, which would have decimated our labor agreement. MSNBC named her one of "30 in 30" candidates to watch, noting her advocacy for voting rights and early voting. Turner has been named a Legislative Champion for Children, a Friend of Labor by the Coalition of Labor Union Women, 2011 State Senator of the Year by *The Nation* and honored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation with the Drum Major for Justice Award. Turner is a history professor at Cuyahoga Community College and was a first-generation college graduate. Before winning her Ohio Senate seat, she was the first woman elected to represent Cleveland's Ward I on its City Council.



Nina Turner

### Ohio Attorney General: David Pepper

Pepper is a lawyer who worked in private practice, and continues to teach election and voting-rights laws at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Among his goals as attorney general will be to fight cyberbullies and Internet predators, "pay to play" politics and to prosecute those who victimize Ohioans with economic scams. Pepper served on the Cincinnati City Council during a time of riots, a severe crime wave and a public safety crisis and played an integral role in negotiating a collaborative agreement between police, the community and City Hall. He also worked to increase investments in economic and community development. Pepper also served as Hamilton County Commission President. During that time, Hamilton County won nineteen National Association of County Awards for outstanding management practices, more than all other Ohio counties combined.



David Pepper

## Labor Day: Remember the struggle

We hope you had a great Labor Day. While you enjoyed your holiday, we also want you to know how Labor Day came about. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City. The day was established to celebrate the original labor movement that began at the end of the 19th century, and eventually rescued the United States from an industrial and manufacturing system that was cruel, exploitive, deadly and feudal. For instance, in 1886, a peaceful labor rally in Haymarket Square in Chicago suddenly turned violent after police arrived and ordered the meeting to end. Someone threw a bomb into the crowd, and the police reacted by beating and shooting at the crowd. Within minutes, 8 people were killed, and more than 120 police and onlookers were injured.

We need to remind ourselves of how tough work used to be and to honor the struggles and successes of those who organized to protect their rights and, in many cases, their lives. Unions have worked hard to protect defined work weeks, benefits and duties and to spell out how employers must treat their employees.

We take a lot for granted. We cannot afford to forget the past. Workers' rights have been under attack in recent years. The attacks have come from politicians and large businesses who know that organized labor is instrumental in addressing core economic concerns, such as income inequality, and in giving working Americans a strong political voice against powerful corporate interests.

## Board Policy: Restraints & Seclusions

New board policy was adopted April 22, 2014, due to changes in state law regarding seclusion and physical restraints. These changes affect all students, not just those with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). According to board policy, when a student's "behavior presents a threat of imminent harm to self or others, as a last resort, the use of approved physical intervention or seclusion strategies" may need to be implemented to maintain a safe environment. 'Seclusion' is now defined as any involuntary placement of a student in a room, enclosure or space. This includes standing in the doorway of your classroom when a student is attempting to leave the room. When incidences occur, behavior intervention forms must be completed and debriefing meetings must occur. After a student has had three incidences in one school year, a functional behavior assessment must be completed. All students, not just ones with IEPs, fall under these new policies. Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training is being developed; additional information will be available this fall.

The special education teachers are also working on compiling notebooks that will serve as resources for all building staff to find students who are currently receiving IEP-related services. The notebooks will be located in the building administrator's office by Sept. 19. Special education teachers will also be attending mandatory IEP training later this fall to learn about the most recent procedures and/or changes in the IEP writing process. If you have specific questions, or need additional resources, contact your building's special education staff or building coordinator.

## Have you formed your ABC?

One of the most important mechanisms of the school building is the Association Building Council (ABC). This group of at least five teachers, organized during the first month of each school year, is an advisory group that assists the principal and the school staff in developing policies and programs for the school. Details can be found in your *CEA Master Agreement* (Article 202.01). Here are the basics:

- The ABC consists of the building's senior faculty representative, two other members elected by secret ballot and two members appointed by the principal.
- All CEA members have the right to have matters placed on the ABC agendas and have the right to speak to the ABC on those items. Most ABC meetings are open to all CEA members in the building.
- The principal is not a member of the ABC and cannot vote on any agenda items, but should be in attendance at all ABC meetings.

## Walk for a cure

Breast cancer is a killer but it is also one of the most treatable of cancers, and research is increasing hope every day. You can help by raising funds for this life-saving effort. It's time to get your team together for the annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk.

Your team members do not have to be employees of the district so encourage family members, friends, students and their parents to join your team. This is a great opportunity to involve the community in your school's efforts. There is no fee to register. You can even register the day of the event. This year's event will take place Sunday, Oct. 26, at COSI, 333 W. Broad St. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the walk starting at 10 a.m. After you register, be sure to stop by the CEA booth the day of the event to get your appreciation gift.

Go to [www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus](http://www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus). Get involved by signing up to be a team leader or a walker. Once you choose your team name be sure to add the Columbus Education Association as your team company so CEA will get credit for the funds you raise. We have created the "CEA Dream Team" for those people who do not have a school team to join. CEA is a proud sponsor of this event, and we would love to be the top fund raiser this year. The first thirty CEA members to register online and raise \$50 should notify Ezetta at the CEA office to receive a free Making Strides T-shirt. Sizes are limited, so register and raise funds early. For information, call Ezetta Murray at CEA (253-4731).

## Nov. 4 is coming. Are you registered to vote?

Make sure you are able to cast a ballot in Ohio. If your address has changed or if you have never registered to vote, take note: The deadline to register or make adjustments is Monday, Oct. 6. You have several options: Visit your county's board of elections, register online or download a paper form to return by mail.

You are qualified to register to vote in Ohio if you meet all the following requirements:

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You will be at least 18 years old on or before the day of the general election.
- You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote.
- You are not incarcerated (in jail or prison) for a felony conviction.
- You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court.
- You have not been permanently disenfranchised for violations of the election laws.

To register or change your information, you need a valid driver's license or must provide the last four digits of your social security number. You may register online at <https://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/voters/registration.cfm>, or use the paper forms for address or name changes located at <https://olvr.sos.state.oh.us/ovru/Modify.aspx>.

## Special notes

- Join us Friday, Sept. 5, at the Hilton Columbus Easton for the **CEA Fall Fling**. The annual party features music, great food and prizes. Get to know your colleagues; meet candidates for office and local elected officials and meet and talk with the CEA staff. The Fling is from 4–8 p.m. Admission is free. Beer and wine are just \$2.
- Open Enrollment** for your **medical benefits** will begin **Oct. 7, 2014**. More information will be coming soon. Be sure to check your CCS email for important updates and information on how to complete the process.

### CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

Contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

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