

Guest Opinion Community Press Newspapers in all Clermont County Wednesday, January 23, 2008, Editions

By Ed Humphrey

Our families deserve better.

They deserve to be represented by people who are more interested in making our County a better place to live than using their office to line the pockets of themselves and their family members.

Many people may not be aware yet that Clermont County Commissioner Mary Walker is under investigation by the Ohio Ethics Committee and that a special prosecutor has been appointed to oversee the criminal investigation into Walker's actions.

When I heard the specifics of these allegations, I was outraged. During the course of my 18 years serving as a Miami Township Trustee, I have had the opportunity to work with Commissioner Walker and I am disappointed in her conduct.

As a lifelong resident of Clermont County who raised my family here and now watches my grandchildren play in the front yard where I grew up, I care about the future of our community. More importantly, I care about the integrity of those representing us and the message that sends to our children.

Honesty in government service is essential. We must never forget that it is we who serve the public and that we do so at their pleasure. I am reminded of this every time a resident confronts me about a matter when I am shopping at the grocery store or out having dinner with my wife. I believe the Air Force core value of "service before self" sets the example.

After hearing that Commissioner Walker was undeterred by the looming ethics investigation and intended to seek re-election regardless, I announced my candidacy to run against her in the Republican primary. For 18 years I have served the residents of Miami Township, and I am looking forward to taking my knowledge of local government to the county level.

We are lucky to live in a County that has great diversity of landscape and population. The needs of the rural parts of Clermont County are in some respects different than those of more developed communities. Yet the fabric that binds us all together is our belief that this is a great place to live and raise our families. In fact, the potential for future growth and development is limitless, but it must be done in a smart and planned way that takes into consideration the needs of all people in Clermont County.

In addition to economic development, I also want to refocus our county government on providing essential county services that benefit all of our residents. We have a well run jail that needs to be maintained and funded in such a way that it can service the needs of our courts. Through careful planning, we have a well maintained system of roads and bridges in our county but with growth we will also face increased traffic. Anyone who has experienced the Route 32 interchange at rush hour knows there is still work to be done. We must also prioritize outreach to our seniors, our veterans and children's services.

I look forward to sharing more of my vision for our County with voters in the next two months before the March 4<sup>th</sup> primary.

*Ed Humphrey is a Republican candidate for Clermont County Commissioner. His campaign website is [www.edhumphrey.com](http://www.edhumphrey.com).*