

OHIO YOUNG DEMOCRATS
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OHIO YOUNG DEMOCRATS ANNOUNCE SUPPORT OF RUN2009 CANDIDATES

The Ohio Young Democrats today announced their support for four young Ohioans seeking to serve their communities through elected office. OYD believes that these four candidates – Wadzi Hoert for Brunswick Board of Education, John Landers for Boardman Board of Education, Dan Langshaw for the North Royalton School Board and A.J. Smith for Middletown City Council—represent the future of public service in Ohio. Candidates were selected through a rigorous endorsement process.

Brunswick High School alumna **Wadzi Hoert** brings a wealth of educational experience to her campaign for the Brunswick Board of Education. Wadzi holds a Masters degree in higher education administration and is currently pursuing a second Masters degree in high school guidance counseling. Additionally, Wadzi serves as student affairs administrator at Cleveland State University and has three years' experience as a substitute teacher. She has also worked at James Madison University. A Brunswick resident, Wadzi is a member of the Service Employees International Union and is active with the Huntington Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization and the Brunswick Optimist Club.

John Landers, a 2000 graduate of Boardman High School, cites his desire to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow as his motivation to serve on the Boardman Board of Education. “Educating students in innovation and entrepreneurship for new jobs in the 21st-century economy while maintaining the dedication and work ethic of this area should be the priority of this school district,” Landers said. Currently a member of the Boardman Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee, John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science and a Masters degree in engineering and management from Case Western Reserve University. Additionally, John served as a federal government consultant with CGI Federal. He remains active in his community through St. Charles Parish and the Mahoning Valley 20/30 Professional Society.

After serving his country in the United States Army, North Royalton High alumnus **Dan Langshaw** has devoted his life to public service. A graduate of Cleveland State University, Dan has become a tireless advocate on veterans’ issues and educational equality. Dan has further demonstrated his commitment to education by participating in Governor Strickland’s statewide education conversations and by self-sponsoring the Dan Langshaw Leadership Scholarship, given annually to a North Royalton High School graduating senior.

A veteran of the Obama presidential campaign, **A.J. Smith** brings a passion for unity to the race for Middletown City Council's 2nd Ward. Smith traveled the country and helped to establish several local Students for Barack Obama chapters. He even assisted in organizing Vice President Biden's motorcade. Although his community faces challenges, Smith says he will not let those difficulties deter him. "My vision and passion for progression in the 2nd Ward will enable me to find one voice that unifies the community," Smith said.

Run2009 is a unique initiative sponsored by the Ohio Young Democrats to encourage and support young Ohioans seeking elected office. OYD provides a mentorship program, financial support and access to a statewide network of passionate, engaged Democrats working to make a difference in Ohio.

For more information and pictures of the candidates, visit www.ohioyd.org.