

CLARK COUNTY, OHIO
WOMEN'S ISSUES NETWORK
WIN VICTORY



2020 General Election
Courageous
Candidate Profile

One of the Clark County Women's Issues Network's(WIN) goals is to help voters make informed decisions as they cast their vote. To facilitate this objective, WIN invited 2020 General Election candidates to tell us about themselves, their candidacy, and their goals. Below is the information received from this candidate.

Cynthia
Richards
For State Representative



Cynthia Richards

State Representative, District 79 Candidate

PLEASE TELL US:

1. Your name as it will appear on the ballot:

Cynthia Richards

2. The office for which you are running:

State Representative, District 79

3. Why you are running for this office:

I am a teacher, and for over 25 years I have made it my purpose to better the world one student at a time.

But over the last five to eight years, I have seen my students lose faith in their future. They are no longer sure that they will have a sustaining career, affordable health care, and be able to buy a house; or even whether it will be possible and ethical to have children.

With the threat of gun violence a constant in their lives and climate change going unaddressed, they also experience a high level of anxiety and trauma. So, when I was approached by a friend and member of the local Democratic Party, I was open to the idea of running for public office even though I had never seen myself doing so.

I realized I had a responsibility to use my skills as a communicator, researcher, and policy maker to better the lives of my students and to restore their faith in their future. As I come to know better the people in my district -- many of whom are struggling to pay their bills but every day do good work and care for their families -- I feel even more inspired to win this November and **to make a difference for everyone in my community.**

I will fight to make sure that we have accessible, affordable health care, quality education, and an economy that works for everyone.

4. What makes you the best candidate for this office:

We need change in the Ohio State House.

Corruption has become the norm in our Republican-led State House and gerrymandering means that our current representatives need only be attentive to the needs and interests of the few.

Our current representative does not fight for the good of the whole. He does not speak up on behalf of racial justice, but only promises to listen and then does nothing, or votes to continue to sell Confederate flags at county fairs.

This is my first time to run for public office and I have made it my job **to listen, be attentive**, and **act in response to the needs** of all my students throughout my working life. **I will bring this same empathy and understanding, these same problem-solving skills, and this same commitment to acting, to my job as state representative.**

I have fought for inclusion and justice in every class I have taught, every article I have written, and in every program, department, or committee I have chaired.

We need someone who will do their homework, work hard for the people in our district, and fight for a better, more just future for everyone. These qualities represent who I am, and that makes me the best candidate.

5. What are your credentials and qualifications for the office you are seeking:

I am a **skilled communicator, active listener, experienced policy maker and researcher, and highly skilled administrator** with years of experience **managing complex programs and achieving positive results.**

I am an **award-winning teacher, Fulbright scholar, and published author** with three books to my name. As a teacher of over 25 years, I **know how to address the needs of the individual while achieving the broader goals of equity, inclusion, and competency.**

6. WIN is dedicated to creating a progressive future for Clark County Ohio women, our families, and our community. WIN welcomes diverse opinions and promotes inclusive, just outcomes insofar as policies, laws, treatment, equal access, and more. WIN promotes **stable, evenhanded, fair, welcoming leaders who will work with us to create family, community, and national opportunities for all—not just a selected few**—no matter one's age, race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, station in life or wealth. Taking WIN's foundational objectives as stated above into consideration, **what are the three most important goals you plan to focus on as you campaign and when you are elected:**

WIN's goals and my goals align perfectly.

As noted in my comments above, **my career has been devoted to creating inclusive, just outcomes, and I do so with care and thoughtfulness.**

We can only achieve these goals, however, if we guarantee a basic, quality of life for everyone in our community, and that means affordable, stable health care, equitable public education, and livable wages that allow **everyone** to build a

sustainable future for themselves and their families.

7. WIN members may want to help on your campaign. Whom should be contacted (please provide the name of the person, their phone number, and their email address) and please let us know what type of help you need.

- Cynthia Richards, 937-319-6020 (home) and 937-561-3297 (cell);
email: cynthiarichards2020@gmail.com
- Austin Smith, 937-631-3141, email: austinsmithoh@gmail.com

8. Feel free to share any additional information you think is pertinent about you and/or your candidacy such as your links to your website and/or Facebook:

- Website: www.cynthiarichards2020.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CynthiaRichards2020>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cynthiarichards2020/>

Editor's Note:

Emphasis, such as words in bold in this profile, was determined solely by and created solely as an editorial prerogative of WIN chief editor, Cynthia Dunlevy.