

In The Spotlight with: Carol A. Lawler and Carol D. Gurney, Medina County Board of Elections Director and Deputy Director

By Kate Feeks

In October watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by John Celebrezze. This episode features Carol A. Lawler and Carol D. Gurney from the Medina County Board of Elections. This show can be viewed on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access, Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public Access, Channel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access, Channel 37 in Medina County, along with Clear Picture Channels 21 & 22 in Wooster and Massillon.

Carol A. Lawler, began working at the Board in October 2005 due a population increase in Medina County. The Board of Elections expanded the staff and Lawler was hired as a clerk. Today there four clerks working under Ms. Lawler. She is responsible for keeping voter records current and assisting voters in the voting process. She also reports to other agencies and government entities as required, processes requests from the voters and candidates, supervises the Americans with Disabilities Act Program, which includes securing grant funds to ensure polling places meet the requirements, and coordinates additional personnel at early voting locations.

In 2004 Carol Gurney began working at the Medina County Board of Elections. The Deputy Director must be of the opposite political party of the Director. The qualifications for the Deputy Director are the same as those for the Director. The Deputy Director must be able to assist the Director in the performance of her duties and perform those duties when the Director is absent. The Deputy will also perform other duties as assigned by the Director.

There have been a number of changes in Ohio's election law that will effect this year's election. One of them has to do with the form of identification requirements. "It is very necessary that we have the proper ID from people... As for provisional ballots, once we verify identification we are able to then count those ballots ..." explained Lawler. The proper components of that identification include the voter's name, address, date of birth, ID number (driver's license number or the last four digits of their social security number) and a signature.

"We're becoming experts at election law the hard way" noted Lawler regarding this year's challenges in keeping up with all the changes.

To learn more about The Medina County Board of Elections and recent changes in Ohio election law, watch for the interview with Carol Lawler and Carol Gurney by John Celebrezze host of *Law Talk* throughout the month of October on your local cable network and You Tube.