



Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's 2020 Annual Meeting

The Summit Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting its 74th Annual Meeting, including the Election of candidates for the Board of Supervisors, on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be a Drive-up event held at the Summit County Russell M. Pry Building located at 1180 South Main Street in Akron Ohio, 44301.

All interested residents and stakeholders are invited to attend our non-traditional meeting which will provide for social distancing and safe access to voting from your vehicle. To receive a free box lunch, you are required to register at: <https://sswcd.summitoh.net/featured/2020-annual-meeting-supervisor-election>

Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's Election Process

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Summit Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

There are 2 ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

1. At the Summit SWCD Office Building Drive-up Election, which will take place at the Summit County Russell M. Pry Building parking lot located at 1180 South Main Street in Akron, Ohio 44301 on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; or
2. Voting absentee from September 7, 2020 until October 20, 2020, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following mailing address: 1180 South Main Street, Suite 241, Akron, OH 44301 or by calling 330-926-2445 or emailing jroyer@summitoh.net. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023. The Nominees are Barry L. Ganoë, Craig Graft, Michael Rorar, and Danny A. Ross. Candidate biographies can be found on the next page.



Barry L. Ganoe

Barry L. Ganoe was born in Akron, Ohio (1961) and has been a resident of Summit County all his life. Barry is a graduate of Springfield Senior High School (*Diploma 1979*), The University of Akron College of Fine & Applied Arts (*B.F.A. Degree 1987*), and the Connecticut School of Broadcasting (*Diploma 1987*). Barry has a diverse career background with an equal balance between the private sector and local government service. Barry's career background includes computer operations, retail store management, professional photography and graphic arts plus previous radio broadcasting experience with WKLM in Millersburg, WGAR in Cleveland and WHBC in Canton. Barry was the owner and president of Cricket Photo and Imaging, Inc. from 1995 until 2002. Barry worked as an Assistant Zoning Inspector for Springfield Township between 2002 and 2003 before becoming the full-time Administrator for the City of New Franklin Zoning & Planning Department in 2003, a position he has held for 17 years. Barry's governmental background includes all aspects of zoning and planning plus previous service on the Summit County Board of Health for five years (*President of the Board of Health for 2 years*). Barry was recently appointed an Associate Supervisor for the Summit Soil & Water Conservation District. Barry is married to Sharon Furiga Ganoe with two stepdaughters Lauren and Kaitlyn. Barry and Sharon have two canine family members named Abby and Ginger. Barry is a member of the Arbor Day Foundation, Green Energy Ohio and the Ohio Environmental Council. Barry's interests include natural resource preservation, green energy, specifically solar energy, as well as enjoying the many aspects of nature and the outdoors.



Craig Graf

Born and raised in Copley Township, Craig Graf graduated from Copley High School in 1988 and Kent State University in 1993. In 2002 and 2003, Craig was a member of The Ohio State University Leadership, Education and Development (Lead) Program, Class IX. He served on the advisory board for the OSU Swank Program in Urban/Rural Policy from 2002 through 2005. The Swank Program conducts and supports research, teaching and outreach within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center; and Ohio State University Extension. The goal is to combine innovative approaches in economic theory, planning, advanced statistical research, and geographical information systems to create products that can be used by the academic community, stakeholders, policymakers, students, and the public. Craig is an owner-operator of Graf Growers, a family owned vegetable farm and greenhouse in Copley Township. He is a member of Farm Bureau and has been a Summit SWCD Supervisor since 2006. Craig currently resides in Fairlawn.



Michael Rorar

Mike Rorar grew up in Akron and graduated from Kent State University with a BS in Conservation and Forestry and a minor in History. Mike has over 20 years of labor, operational, and management experience in the field of Parks, Recreation, and highway operations. A broad range of responsibilities have included overseeing multi-million-dollar operating and capital budgets, development and maintenance of over 1000 lane miles of streets and highways, park renovation, design, and construction. Currently, Mike is working as the Service Director for the City of Tallmadge, where he oversees the departments of Utilities, (Water/Sewer and Stormwater), Street, Cemetery, Zoning, and Park and Recreation. Mike is running for his second term for the Board of Supervisors. During Mike's first term, he is proud of the accomplishment of the Board in creating the position of Watershed Coordinator. The Watershed Coordinator will help municipalities manage their natural water systems. This is the first time that the Summit SWCD in Summit County has had such a position. In addition, he is excited about being involved in implementing the strategic plan that has been created to guide the agency over the next five years in providing leadership for the County's natural resource and land uses.



Danny A. Ross

Danny Ross graduated from Lincoln Memorial University in 1974 and then completed his Graduate Degree at Duke University in 1975. Danny is a retired USDA NRCS employee with over 33 years of experience in natural resource management with a specialty in Urban Conservation. Over 30 years, he was at the field office level, some of the time at Summit SWCD, and the last 3 years, he was the State Urban Conservationist in Ohio. He has also taught 20 years part time at Kent State University in the Departments of Geography and Biology. In 2013, Dan went full time as an Associate Lecturer in both departments. His major interests at the University have been in Urban Conservation, Forestry, Wildlife Development, Sediment Transport and Golf Course Design. He retired from his second career in Spring of 2015. He also has a natural resource education consulting business, where he does educational workshops, and CPESC/CESSWI Review Courses for clients. He has served as Chair of the CESSWI International Council, and Administrative Vice Chair of the International ENVIROCERT Council. Danny loves to travel with family on vacations, sporting clays, pheasant hunting, racquetball, and of course, golf. He is also involved in the Music business because he helps manage his son – Ian – who is a full-time professional musician.