

For Immediate Release
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Three Independent Ohio House Candidates Sign Fulcrum Coalition Pledge

Ohio — Three Independent candidates running for the Ohio House announced today the formation of the Ohio Fulcrum Coalition and a public commitment to independent judgment and cross-party collaboration that puts constituents and Ohio first. The signers are Lyndsey Stough (District 44), Craig Swartz (District 87), and Kristine Geis (District 97).

All three candidates are running outside political parties and if elected are beholden only to their district and their constituents. The Fulcrum Coalition represents the power of these candidates to swing influence in the House, to bring forward non-partisan legislation with broad public support, and pull government away from the extremes of politics.

“The two parties are stuck grasping for power while major issues affecting families go unaddressed and get worse,” said Stough. “We are more alike than we are different, and we can achieve results on common ground with respect and practical solutions. Fulcrum Coalition members answer directly to their district, helping break the stalemate, provide a voice of reason amid political pandering, and get things done.”

Recent Ohio House leadership votes, such as in 2023, have been decided by coalition and not the unanimity of the majority party. Independent legislators would have the opportunity to move the legislature to the benefit of all Ohioans to a larger degree. Democratic and Republican legislators would find an easier time joining Independent-led initiatives over crossing the aisle.

“Ohioans are looking for common sense legislation that moves our state forward, presents a clear vision of Ohio’s future and truly has the people’s backing,” said Swartz. “Members of the Fulcrum Coalition, upon getting elected into the Ohio House, will be firmly committed to those goals.”

This coalition is not a party, caucus, voting bloc, or mutual endorsement agreement and members are not asked to adopt a common policy platform. Each candidate commits to the following pledge:

We are candidates for the Ohio General Assembly who make this public commitment: we will respect the rule of law, the U.S. Constitution, and the Ohio Constitution; strengthen democracy so voters, not special interests or concentrated wealth, set the agenda; and work across party lines on long-term problems facing Ohio communities and our constituents.

We will treat colleagues and constituents with respect and integrity, answer to those we represent rather than a party line, and serve the electorate. We do not agree on everything, but we commit ourselves to debate, discuss, and deliberate honestly. We commit to bringing different perspectives forward as we collaboratively seek to serve the public good.

“My vote belongs to the people, not a party or special interest group. I want the opportunity to work with everyone at the state house,” said Geis. “I want to solve problems and bring lawmakers together to make common sense laws for the common good. That is what being independent and being part of this coalition is about. People, not Party.”

The coalition is open to additional legislative candidates of any party or none who agree to the pledge.
The coalition will look to grow once in office to strengthen the Fulcrum.

“Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world.” — attributed to Archimedes

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