Williams Soil & Water Conservation District

2026 Board of Supervisor Nominees – TWO to Be Elected for a 3-Year Term

Election: Thursday, November 19, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Williams SWCD Office, 11246 State Route 15, Montpelier

Absentee Voting: October 21, 2026 – November 19, 2026



Ed Nickolite



Ryan Ruble



Berdon 'Bob' Short



Reba Wall

Ed Nickolite and his wife Pat live in rural Stryker in Brady Township. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. In Ed's professional career, he spent many years managing large organizations, large complex systems, and large projects. He has skills in managing both support organizations and production organizations and is skilled in project and program management. Ed has been a board member or chaired professional organizations. Ed is a current member of the Williams County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, where he has served for the past 3 years and has served as Chairman for the past year and is currently serving on the Marti Preserve Committee. He recently became a Steering Committee Member for the Maumee Valley Planning Organization Regional / County Land Use Plan for Williams Defiance and Paulding Counties. Ed retired with over 40 years in the Gas and Electric Utility Industry. His primary focus was in Information Technology and Nuclear Power Generation Operations and Maintenance where he managed the Work and Asset Management System, Geographical Mapping System, and Field Force Mobile Management System supporting the entire enterprise. Ed has participated in board level organizations such as IBM's Maximo Advisory Council, a multi-industry council advising IBM on product performance and direction. He was also a board member and then Chairman of the Maximo Utility Working Group (MUWG), a non-profit organization working with utilities in training and knowledge sharing to optimize and deliver the most value of this IBM product. He is an active member of the Williams County Pheasants Forever. He is currently a member of the Farmer Veteran Coalition. Ed was born and raised in rural Nebraska. Both his grandparents farmed and managed livestock as did several uncles. Ed has a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Toledo and was the Class Valedictorian. Ed is a veteran and spent 6 years in the United States Navy. After his service in the Navy, he began his career in the utility business. His career brought him to the Great Lakes region where he spent over 30 years with DTE Energy in progressively responsible positions in their Nuclear Generation and Information Technology organizations. Ed was a key leader on several large-scale, multi-million-dollar projects improving and transforming the Operational and Information Technology landscape for DTE. Throughout his professional career, he has maintained his ties to rural roots. He enjoys the outdoors and hunting. He believes Williams County is the best county in Northwest Ohio. His love for Williams County began after moving to Ohio in 1989. He spent the fall weekends archery hunting at the Lake La Su An Wildlife area. When a parcel of land became available 10 years ago near Pioneer, he purchased it. Since then, he has added to, and improved this parcel, planting over 1800 native trees and shrubs, controlling invasive species, planting native warm season grasses, and implementing conservation practices. In 2019, Ed and Pat were blessed to find and purchase a rural home on 55 acres north of Stryker in Brady Township. Since then, Ed has been busy improving this property. He has created a Forest Steward Plan for the woodlands on both properties. Since retiring, he has been actively implementing that plan, using Timber Stand Improvement practices, clearing invasives and non-crop trees, then replanting native oaks. He has also planted a shelter belt, small orchard, and native warm season grasses. Ed has planted 3600 trees and shrubs on this site. Ed and Pat own 96

acres in Williams County. Ed believes in a balanced, systemic approach to agriculture/land management. Understand your situation, implement practices which work best for you, your product, and the environment. Then, observe your results and make adjustments to improve your results. Always engage in continuous learning and improvement.

Ryan Ruble Ryan and his wife Kimberly reside in Superior Township. Ryan graduated from The Ohio State University. He is currently employed at Truland Equipment, a local John Deere dealership, as a salesman at the Edgerton location. Ryan is also a licensed auctioneer and realtor for United Edge Real Estate and Auction Co. As an active farmer and landowner, he understands the frustration and challenges producers are facing. Ryan raises wheat, corn, and soybeans and implements minimal till practices. Both Ryan and his wife strive to be good stewards of the land while also staying profitable. He enjoys working with both farmers and non-farmers and is excited to serve and support Williams Soil & Water Conservation District.

Berdon (Bob) Short Bob and his wife Peggy live in rural Alvordton (Millcreek Township). They have three daughters and five grandchildren. Bob has gained knowledge and experience of soil and water conservation by implementing conservation practices in his grain farming operation for the past 35 years in Millcreek Township. He uses no-till and minimum tillage practices, as well as utilizing waterways and filter strips to control erosion. Bob is a current member of the Williams County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors, where he has served for the past 21 years, and has served as Chairman for the past 17 years. In 2008, while serving as a Williams County SWCD Board Supervisor, Bob was elected to the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD) as Area 1 Director, where he served for 7 years. In 2015, since Bob was very active as an Area 1 Director, he was asked to serve, and was then elected as a State Officer of the OFSWCD, where he served as President for 2 years. In 2014 Bob received: 1) 'Academy of Conservation Leadership' award. He was one of only two to be the first graduates from the OFSWCD Conservation *Tom Spellmire Leadership Academy*. 2) Bob was also awarded the OASWCD Employees 2014 President's award for Outstanding Board Supervisor. This award is presented each year to two outstanding board supervisors in Ohio, which includes 440 supervisors. The award was given to Bob for his outstanding contribution in strengthening and promoting the conservation of our natural resources by providing assistance, information, and representation and by supporting the efforts of all conservation districts. Bob was very instrumental on the Williams SWCD Levy Committee. Bob received the Millcreek-West Unity Schools Alumni Hall of Fame award in 2017. He is currently Supervisor of Weekend Operations for Weiland Chase. Bob has also served as a Millcreek Township Trustee for 33 years and is currently chairman of the Trustee Board. He is a volunteer firefighter and former Assistant Chief of the Alvordton-Millcreek Township Volunteer Fire Department, where he is also an Ohio and Michigan registered Medical First Responder. Bob is a member of the Northwest Ohio and Williams County Volunteer Firefighters Association, the Ohio Township Trustees Association, and a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau. Bob has a passion for conservation and a desire to improve the quality of our natural resources for our children, grandchildren and the generations to come.

Reba Wall Reba and her husband Zach Wall live in rural Edon (Florence Township). In the past, Reba has worked for The Nature Conservancy and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) collaborating with other conservation groups to promote best management practices that reduce nutrient runoff in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Through these roles, she has learned the importance of working one-on-one with farmers to understand the unique challenges on each farm, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.

Reba earned her bachelor's degree in Horticulture and a minor in Agribusiness from Ohio State University. She recently earned her Real Estate Salesperson license in Ohio and is an Associate at Mary Stoller Realty and Auction Co in downtown Bryan.

Reba is part of the Edon FFA Alumni Association. She believes that 'everyone is tied to agriculture, whether they farm or not. Those who are involved in farming have a powerful story to tell, and by sharing it, they can help bridge the gap and build a stronger connection with those who aren't directly involved.'