



December 2, 2020

*President Bill Clinton said "The primary goals of America's political leaders should be to make people better off than when they started and to help people come together to do it. It's important to help America grow together, not apart."*

*That is my commitment to Ohio Democrats and the work that we will do together. – Antoinette Wilson*

With the upcoming vacancy of ODP Chair, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as I seek your consideration and support. We have many challenges to face in strengthening our party, and there are no easy answers. We are at a crucial turning point and proven experience in winning elections, leadership, management and fundraising must be prerequisites for consideration. We must acknowledge that deep changes are needed and implement comprehensive change. As such, I am committed to serving a minimum of four years as a full-time Chair residing in Franklin County. **With the ODP Chair election quickly approaching, I wanted to share an outline of my plan as well as my work history and win record on candidate campaigns.**

**For over 25 years, I have demonstrated an established record of winning elections at the local, state and national level.** (See attached list.) My extensive experience in fundraising has enabled our team to formulate strategies to raise millions of dollars for their campaigns through the years. Most importantly, as a wife, mother, and small business owner, I have an understanding of the daily challenges experienced by many Ohioans. I truly believe that my vast and diverse experience has prepared me to lead the Ohio Democratic Party. **I have made it my life's work to elect democrats to offices throughout our state and I possess the long-term vision to chart a successful course forward.**

### **Vision for Hope**

The foundation for rebuilding our party begins with a plan that is focused on the diverse communities that have served as the pillars for the Democratic Party, including but not limited to: African-Americans, Labor, Latinos, LGBTQIA, Women, Young Professionals/Millennials and County Party Organizations. The stronger the pillars, the stronger the party. The following are my initial recommendations for consideration during the transition:

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** We will review and assess all state party infrastructure and operations. In these lean times, it is essential that we have an operational budget that can be supported. Staff assessment and responsibilities, with transparency and accountability, will be maximized to successfully elect democrats.

**SHORT-TERM / LONG-TERM STRATEGIC PLANNING:** I will lead discussions, with our party leadership at the local, state and federal levels, to create a multi-year plan that incorporates an 88 county strategy. There will be both an urban and rural agenda that will be integrated with local, state and federal elections. We also need to assess ODP liaisons communications with local parties and activists. This will allow us to assess both accomplishments and challenges moving forward. At the end of each campaign cycle, we will work to acknowledge roadblocks and develop strategies that allow us to develop new opportunities for success. To execute this, I propose creating an "ODP Cabinet" to strengthen relationships and outcomes between the county parties and ODP. We will grow collaboration and inclusiveness among the diverse members and pillars of our party—as this diversity is a unique strength of our party that can propel us to a better future. I have used this approach along with creative fundraising strategies for the

last two decades and it works. ODP cabinet responsibilities may include, but not be limited to: finance, technology, regional fundraising and constituency representation.

TRAINING AND MENTORING: We will review and augment our mentoring and training programs. Effective programs will provide the resources needed to establish and groom a growing "farm team" for both short-term and long-term success. I will work with County Chairs to augment existing training programs that directly correlate to the needs of their county. **Every county in Ohio is different and if we want to see more success at the local level, we must work directly with County Chairs and Executive Committee members.** Additionally, I will work with established national, state and local partners to provide dynamic training opportunities for candidates and staff throughout our state.

FUNDRAISING: We will review and augment the finance plan for both grassroots and major donors. The finance team will develop a fundraising strategy that includes direct solicitation, online, events, and PAC fundraising.

### **Work History**

In 1999, I co-founded and currently serve as CEO of Triumph Communications, a firm specializing in strategic communications. As a small business owner, our team has ranged from 5-10 full-time employees, over the years, and is located in Columbus.

A native of Toledo, Ohio, I began my career working on Justice Alice Robie Resnick's campaign for the Ohio Supreme Court as I prepared for law school. Her mentoring established my career in politics. With her victory, I followed my interest in statewide politics to Columbus. In 1990, I volunteered on Tony Celebrezze's campaign for Governor and went on to work at the Ohio Democratic Party under the leadership of State Party Chairs Gene Branstool, Harry Meshel and David Leland. I served in a variety of capacities including, deputy finance director, development director and political/executive director from 1991 to 1996. It was in these positions at the Ohio Democratic Party that I developed strategies and shaped efforts to foster, promote and develop hundreds of elected officials at the local, county and state levels. In 1996, I was honored to serve as Political Director for President Clinton's re-election campaign in Ohio. Following this victory, I received an appointment in the Clinton Administration and shortly thereafter became Director of Training and Talent for the Democratic National Committee, where I trained hundreds of campaign operatives across the country.

In 1999, I returned to Ohio and started a company with Greg Haas and Don Spicer which we named Haas, Spicer Wilson and currently, Triumph Communications. Our partnership is responsible for many of the victories in Franklin County from 1999 forward that have turned it solid blue. Ohio is my home and since returning, I have served as a general consultant/campaign manager for over 100 campaigns at the local, state and national levels. In 2004, I served as the Ohio State Director (Primary) for John Kerry for President. When Ohio turned blue in 2006, I was the campaign director for the successful campaigns of both Richard Cordray for State Treasurer and Jennifer Brunner for Secretary of State. In 2008, I was appointed Assistant Secretary of State and assisted in the administration of a successful presidential election in 2008. I returned to Triumph Communications in 2009 to continue my work at the local, state and national levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my vision. If elected, I am committed to bringing together a broad coalition of support as we continue forward. My credentials in Ohio and national politics have provided me the professional expertise and leadership to reestablish the Ohio Democratic Party and take it to the next level. I am tested, proven and ready to lead. Please know I am grateful for your consideration in support of my candidacy for the Ohio Democratic Party Chair.

Democratically yours,  
Antoinette Wilson

**WIN RECORD: The following are WINNING campaigns I engaged in as a campaign manager, director or advisor:**

**National**

Clinton/Gore 1996 - (Ohio Political Director)  
John Kerry for President - Primary 2004 (State Director)

**Statewide**

Kevin Boyce, State Representative 2012, 2014  
Jennifer Brunner for Ohio Supreme Court, 2020  
Jennifer Brunner, Ohio Secretary of State, 2006  
Richard Cordray, State Treasurer, 2006  
Hearcel Craig, State Representative 2012, 2014  
Hearcel Craig, State Senate 2014, 2018  
Teresa Fedor, State Representative 2014, 2016  
Teresa Fedor, State Senator 2018  
A.J. Wagner, State Board of Education, 2014

**Local**

Jennifer Adair, Columbus Board of Education, 2019  
Carol Beckerle, Columbus Board of Education, 2019  
Kevin Boyce, Franklin County Commissioner 2016, 2020  
Marilyn Brown, Franklin County Commissioner, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018  
Mitch Brown, Columbus City Council, 2017  
Eric Brown, Columbus Board of Education, 2019  
Michael Coleman, Mayor of the City of Columbus, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011  
Richard Cordray, Franklin County Treasurer, 2002, 2004  
Hearcel Craig, Columbus City Council, 2007, 2011  
Andrew Ginther, Columbus School Board, 2001  
Andrew Ginther, Columbus City Council, 2005, 2007, 2011  
Andrew Ginther for Mayor, 2015  
Ed Leonard, Franklin County Treasurer, 2008, 2012  
Rhine McLin, Mayor of the City of Dayton, 2001, 2005  
Mike Mentel, Columbus City Council, 2007  
John O'Grady, Franklin County Clerk of Courts, 2000  
John O'Grady, Franklin County Commissioner, 2008  
Jaiza Page, Columbus City Council 2015  
Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Columbus City Council, 2001, 2005  
Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, Franklin County Clerk of Courts, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020  
Tina Pierce, Columbus Board of Education, 2019  
James Ragland, Columbus Board of Education, 2019  
Cheryl Brooks Sullivan, Franklin County Treasurer 2020  
Charleta Tavares, Columbus City Council, 2007  
Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor, 2020  
Priscilla Tyson, Columbus City Council, 2007, 2013, 2017

**Judicial**

Laurel Beatty Blunt, 10<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, 2018  
Laurel Beatty Blunt, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge, 2010, 2016  
Eric Brown, Franklin County Probate Judge, 2008  
Kim Brown, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge, 2012  
Jennifer Brunner, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge, 2002  
Jennifer Brunner, 10<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, 2014  
Richard Frye, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge 2004, 2010, 2016  
Monica Hawkins for Judge, 2018  
Steve McIntosh, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge, 2004, 2016  
Andy Miller for Judge, 2020  
Jaiza Page for Judge, 2018  
Lashey! Stroud for Judge, 2020



**Antoinette Wilson, CEO**  
**Triumph Communications**

Ms. Wilson is CEO and co-founder of Triumph Communications, Inc. Established in 1999, Triumph Communications, Inc. is a full-service strategic communications firm offering services in the areas of Coalition Building, Public Affairs, Political Campaigns and Media Buying.

Ms. Wilson is a strategist with special skills in organizational management, analytical thinking, problem solving and staff motivation. For nearly two decades, Wilson has represented numerous public and private sector clients, with an established record of accomplishment in community, government and public relations.

Appointed as the first woman Assistant Secretary of State for the State for Ohio, Wilson was responsible for the management of this state agency in the areas of communications, legislative affairs, field services, policy and the voting rights institute.

Wilson has served as a general consultant for nearly 100 campaigns at the local, state and national level. Wilson served as the general campaign consultant for the 2006 campaigns for Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State and Richard Cordray, State Treasurer. In 2004, she served as the Ohio State Director (Primary) for John Kerry for President and the Ohio Political Director for Clinton/Gore in 1996. As the former Director of Training and Talent for the Democratic National Committee in Washington DC and as Development/Political Director of the Ohio Democratic Party, Wilson strategized and shaped efforts to foster, promote and develop hundreds of elected officials at the local, county and state levels.

Wilson is currently a member for the POWER Commission - John Glenn School of Public Affairs, Women Leaders Co-Chair - Community Shelter Board and a member with the Patriots, American Sustainable Business Council, Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Women Business Owners and a former board member for the American Association of Political Consultants Midwest Chapter, Hope Chest and the International Institute for Democracy.