



Community Connection, Fall 2022

7307 Avon Belden Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039 ■ (440) 353-0819 ■ Visit us at www.nridgeville.org

Mayor's Message...



One Vision. One North Ridgeville.

The City of North Ridgeville and North Ridgeville City Schools have partnered to address long-standing needs in our community. This November, two issues will appear on the ballot for consideration by voters:

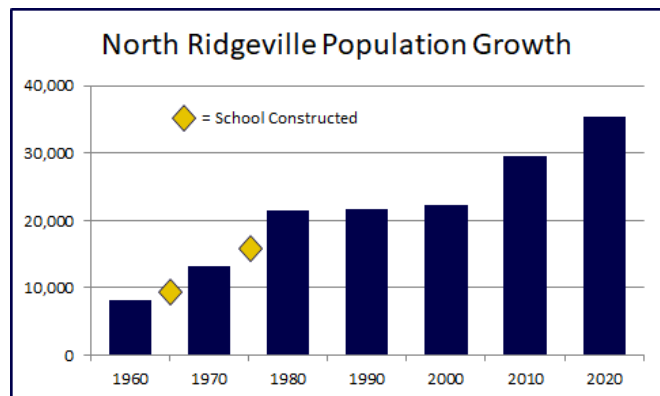
- A bond issue to fund a new high school, an elementary school, dedicated space for Ranger High Tech Academy, a performing arts center and a transportation and maintenance facility; and
- An income tax levy to fund a community center attached to the high school containing recreation facilities including a field house with indoor track, aquatic center, fitness center and a senior center.

These two issues must both pass to realize this plan.

Why Now?

RESPONDING TO GROWTH

The population of the city has nearly quadrupled since the current high school was constructed in the 1960s. Today, North Ridgeville is one of the fastest growing communities in Northeast Ohio. Schools can no longer physically accommodate the student population. Enrollment projections show continued increases over the next decade.



CREATING LASTING VALUE

The High School and Liberty Elementary School were built in 1967 and 1976, respectively. These aging facilities do not meet the current needs of our students and teachers. New school buildings will provide more space, as well as the resources and technology to educate and empower all students for life success.

PURSUING OUR VISION

This is a community-driven plan. For two decades, input has been collected during numerous city and school planning initiatives via resident surveys, steering committees, stakeholder focus groups and general meetings. A recreation and community center is consistently a top priority of participants.

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR ALL

The community center will provide health and athletic programs for residents of all ages and a multi-generational connection between students and seniors. These amenities will appeal to young families and empty nesters alike, while promoting active and healthy lifestyles.

Funding Plan

The total project cost is estimated at \$227 million. The partnership between the City of North Ridgeville and the North Ridgeville City Schools will save taxpayers \$18 million in shared construction costs and continuing cost savings for operations.

BOND ISSUE 6

The School's Bond Issue is an 8.65 mill bond issue which will generate \$190 million. If approved, the issue will fund the construction of the school facilities portion of the project. The successful passage of the bond issue will cost a homeowner \$25.23 per month for every \$100,000 of total market value as determined by the Lorain County Auditor. Bond issue funds must be used toward the construction of buildings and cannot be used for operating purposes. Successful passage will lock the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission into providing \$32 million toward the cost of the district's project.

INCOME TAX ISSUE 28

To provide the funding needed for the recreation center and senior center portion of the project, the City is proposing a permanent income tax levy of 0.2%. Local income tax is currently 1%, which would increase to 1.2%, keeping North Ridgeville's income tax rate among the lowest in Lorain County. Only individuals with earned income would be impacted. If both City and School issues are approved in November, the new income tax would become effective January 1, 2023. The new tax revenues will be earmarked for recreation and community facilities, including their operations and maintenance, and cannot be used for general governmental purposes.

Proposed Charter Amendments

The North Ridgeville Charter was first adopted in 1961. It is the legal framework through which our City exercises its powers of self-government.

A Charter Review Committee, consisting of nine North Ridgeville residents, convened earlier this year for the purpose of conducting a review of the Charter and presenting alterations, revisions and amendments that the Committee deemed advisable. I would like to thank the following members for their participation:

Sara Markle (Chair)	Bob Chapek	Dawn Fitz
Rachele Glynias	J.D. Gontkovsky	Bob Meeker
Sarah Miller	Frank Toth	Ken Wilson

As a result of their work, on November 8, 2022, North Ridgeville voters will be asked to consider eight changes to the Charter.

Before casting your vote, learn more about these eight ballot issues and why the Charter Review Committee felt these amendments are important for the community.

ISSUE 29

Shall a new Department of Finance be created by amending Article IV, The Auditor, and repealing Article VI, The Treasurer, of the City of North Ridgeville Charter?

This amendment would combine the duties and responsibilities of the City's current Auditor's Office and Treasurer's Office into a single Department of Finance. The benefits of such a merger would be to streamline administrative services, create efficiencies, alleviate the challenges associated with overlapping responsibilities and bring cohesiveness to the City's finance team.

ISSUE 30

Shall Section 9.7 of Article IX of the Charter of the City of North Ridgeville be amended by deleting an unworkable mathematical formula, and mandating referral to the

electorate of any rezoning to any Multiple Family Residence District?

Currently, the Charter contains a mathematical formula to determine when property can be considered for rezoning to any multi-family residential use. This formula is subject to conflicting interpretations and is unworkable in application; therefore, it is recommended to be deleted. With this amendment, any proposed rezoning to Multiple Family Residence District will continue to be subject to mandatory referral and require approval by the voters. Mixed use zoning, involving a combination of residential and non-residential uses, would be able to be legislatively approved by Council. This amendment would allow the City to pursue creation of a "town center" concept with a mix of retail, restaurants, offices and apartments.

ISSUE 31

Shall Article III of the Charter of the City of North Ridgeville be amended by adding a new Section 3.18 allowing City Council to make provisions by ordinance for the sale, lease, or disposal of municipal real estate and improvements?

Currently, the Charter has no rules governing the sale or lease of City-owned real estate. In the absence of local provisions, the City must follow the requirements outlined in the Ohio Revised Code. By developing our own procedures for the sale or lease of municipal real estate, the City would gain greater control over future development of its land, helping to ensure it's used in the best interests of the North Ridgeville community.

ISSUE 32

Shall Section 3.8 of Article III of the Charter of the City of North Ridgeville be amended by prohibiting the Clerk of Council from acting as Auditor and creating a chain of command in the Clerk's absence?

Currently, the Charter allows for the Clerk of Council to also serve as the Auditor, who is the City's chief financial officer. The duties of Clerk of Council and Auditor, and the skills required for these positions, are vastly different. This amendment would strike out the language allowing the Clerk of Council to serve as Auditor. Additionally, the amendment would establish a clear chain of command for the Clerk of Council's office when the Clerk of Council is absent, unable to perform his/her duties or in cases where the position is temporarily vacant.

ISSUE 33

Shall Section 10.3 of Article X of the Charter of the City of North Ridgeville be amended to clarify which employees are classified and unclassified and to comply with State law?

The Charter categorizes all city employees into either the classified or unclassified service. Civil service is an area governed and regulated by the State of Ohio. This amendment would make clarifications regarding these categories in order to comply with State law.

ISSUE 34

Shall Section 3.5 of Article III of the Charter of the City of North Ridgeville be amended to allow appointed members of Council be elected as Council President?

Currently, when there is a vacancy in the office of the President of Council, only Council members elected by the people can be considered to fill the position. This amendment would allow for a Council member who was not elected, but appointed to fill a Council vacancy, to also be considered for Council President.

ISSUE 35

Shall Section 3.16 of Article III of the Charter of the City of North Ridgeville be amended to maintain electronic media as a form of publication and eliminate the mandated use of the lobby bulletin board?

This amendment would remove the requirement that Council's resolutions, ordinances, meeting notices, reports, etc., be physically posted on a bulletin board in the lobby of City Hall. All required notices would continue to be publicly accessible through electronic media (website, email, etc.). The intent of the change is to ensure adequate public notice while eliminating an outdated form of communication.

ISSUE 36

Shall Section 9.1 of Article IX of the Charter of the City of North Ridgeville be amended to maintain electronic media as a form of publication and eliminate the mandated use of the lobby bulletin board?

This amendment would remove the requirement that public hearing notices for building and zoning ordinances be physically posted on a bulletin board in the lobby of City Hall. All required notices would continue to be published in the newspaper, directly mailed to property owners in the vicinity of any proposed rezoning and/or made publicly accessible through electronic media (website, email, etc.), as required in the Charter. The intent of the change is to ensure adequate public notice while eliminating an outdated form of communication.

If you have any questions regarding the joint facilities project or the proposed Charter amendments, please call my office at (440) 353-0811.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kevin Corcoran

NOPEC Rates

The current energy markets are experiencing unprecedented price volatility. NOPEC, your community's trusted energy aggregator, is not immune to these current market conditions and is working hard to try and protect residents and small businesses from dramatic price spikes and unfair rates and fees. The current NOPEC electric price, however, is more than the current utility's Price to Compare (PTC). This is because the utility's rate is based off the price of energy that was purchased over 11 months ago when prices were much lower. This difference will continue until May 2023 when the utility's price is expected to adjust to the current market and will likely increase. Until then, residents who are dissatisfied with NOPEC's current electric pricing can call the NOPEC Customer Care Center at (855) 667-3201 and ask specifically to be dropped to the utility's default service at no charge (but not to "opt out" of NOPEC). These customers will then be eligible to rejoin NOPEC's aggregation when the markets normalize.

Natural gas rates are also increasing; however, NOPEC's current price is still 12% LESS than Dominion's and 28% LESS than Columbia's Standard Choice Offer (SCO) rates.

Despite these troubling times, the energy markets will stabilize. In the meantime, NOPEC has received reports that some nefarious energy suppliers are using this uncertainty to their own advantage. Please be wary of offers that sound too good to be true. Most are deceptive and have costly consequences. Never share your utility bill or account information with anyone that contacts you unprompted and carefully review all fine print before signing any contracts.

As an extra precaution against high utility bills, NOPEC continues to closely monitor current energy-related regulation and legislation to strongly advocate against unfair pass-through charges and rate hikes. NOPEC also offers many helpful, simple energy-saving tips on their website to help you manage your usage at nopec.org/residents/energy-tips.

For more information, please contact NOPEC's Customer Care Center at (855) 667-3201. Their team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to take your call.



Community Calendar

- September 5** Labor Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday; trash collection delayed one day.
- September 6, 19** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- September 22** Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran from 8:30-9:30 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- September 30** Spaghetti Dinner from 5-7 PM at the Senior Center. Tickets are available for purchase at the door or in advance from the Senior Center. Cost \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 for children 10 and under. Dine in or take out. *Sponsored by North Ridgeville Lions Club.*
- October 1** Fire Safety & Health Fair from 10 AM-2 PM at Fire Station #1, 7000 Ranger Way. Free Event. Food, bounce houses, face painting and other fun activities for kids. Information tables with fire safety and health tips for adults and children. Tour fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, Service Dept. trucks; area medical helicopter landing for tours (weather permitting).
- October 3, 17** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- October 8** FallFest from 4-6 PM at South Central Park. Free event sponsored by Parks & Recreation. Games, food vendors, face & pumpkin painting, balloon animals, pumpkin bowling, photo booth and hay rides (weather permitting).
- October 24** Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran from 8:30-9:30 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- October 28** Tots Trick-or-Treat at 1 PM at City Hall. Bring your little witches and goblins to march in a parade and receive ghoulish treats. Please pre-register by visiting nridgeville.org/parksandrec. This is a free event for ages up to 5 years old.
- October 28** Spaghetti Dinner from 5-7 PM at the Senior Center. Tickets are available for purchase at the door or in advance from the Senior Center. Cost \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 for children 10 and under. Dine in or take out. *Sponsored by VFW Post 9871.*
- October 31** Trick-or-Treat will be observed 6-7:30 PM – citywide.
- Oct. 31-Dec. 2** Holiday Food and Toy Drive to benefit North Ridgeville Community Care. Non-perishable food items and toys in original packaging may be dropped off at City Hall, Parks & Recreation Department and Senior Center.
- November 6** Daylight Savings Time Ends. As a reminder, turn your clocks back one hour.
- November 7, 21** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.
- November 8** Election Day – Exercise your right to vote. Polls open at 6:30 AM and close at 7:30 PM.
- November 11** Veterans Day – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- November 18** Coffee & Conversation with Mayor Corcoran from 8:30-9:30 AM at City Hall in Council Chambers. Stop in to enjoy a cup of coffee and casual conversation with the Mayor.
- November 24, 25** Thanksgiving holiday – City Hall will be closed in observance of the holiday.
- December 3** Holiday on the Ridge is the city's kick off to the holiday season. The self-guided tour takes you to multiple craft shows, business open houses and special events. *Sponsored by North Ridgeville Visitors Bureau.* Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at South Central Park Gazebo at 5 PM. This is an annual tradition where local scouts decorate the tree, High School Choir will lead spectators in festive songs of the season while Mayor Corcoran lights the community tree.
- December 5, 19** City Council Meeting at 7 PM in Council Chambers at City Hall, 7307 Avon Belden Road.