

Issue Positions

- **Support** Oberlin's policy requiring annexation before connection to our water and sewer system.
- **Oppose** the efforts of big-box developer Kenneth Young to remove 125 acres south of Oberlin Reserve from Oberlin's sewer planning district.
- **Support** the gas aggregation plan.
- **Support** Oberlin's municipal power system, the OMLPS.
- **Support** hiring an economic development officer to seek quality businesses.
- **Support** streamlining of licensing, inspection, and variance requests by downtown businesses.
- **Support** requiring sidewalk installation in front of all new construction.
- **Support** the work of ODI and SCA.
- **Support** making an explicit effort to market the former lumberyard site to a suitable business or mixed-use developer.
- **Support** Oberlin College's plan to house more students on campus. Although I believe the College must address neighbors' parking, light and noise concerns, more on-campus housing will yield better maintained apartments and more owner-occupied homes in our city.
- **Member** of Oberlin Area Chamber of Commerce and O.H.I.O.

Biography

Robert B. Calhoun, 35, co-developed the ShotSpotter gunshot location system. Police departments use ShotSpotter to reduce gunfire in violence-prone neighborhoods.

Rob holds BS and PhD degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from MIT. His wife Elizabeth Wilmer is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Oberlin College. In their time off, Rob and Elizabeth enjoy renovating their Elm Street house and working in the garden.

★ Campaign web site: <http://rob.calhoun.net> ★



Join my campaign!

If you would like to host a yard sign in your yard, please contact Radhika Atit at the phone number below. We will remove all signs after the election.

Calhoun for Council Committee
254 Oak St
Oberlin, OH 44074
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*Authorized by Calhoun for Council Committee
254 Oak St Oberlin OH. Radhika Atit, treasurer*

ROB CALHOUN For City Council



My name is Rob Calhoun and I am running for Oberlin City Council. I love Oberlin! This is a great small town and I want to make it even better. My initiatives will make Oberlin a safer and more pleasant place to live. This will help attract residents and businesses to our city.

I am an engineer by training and I work with police departments as part of my job. My engineering expertise will enable me to ask informed questions of city staff and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and effectively on Oberlin's many water, sewer, and road construction projects.

I am asking for one of your council votes in the November 4th election. I am eager to serve on City Council, but only your vote can give me that opportunity. Voting is the foundation of our democratic system, so please remember to vote!

Feel free to contact me at 774-8815 or rob@calhoun.net if you would like to discuss my initiatives or any other issue of concern to you as an Oberlin resident.

My Initiatives for Oberlin

Oberlin needs effective emergency communications.

Oberlin needs an emergency communication system that works. The inadequacy of our current system was demonstrated by the Easter water main break. Not only did many city residents not hear about the boil advisory, the city's automated water "hot line" reported that no boil advisory was in effect!

I will develop a **robust emergency communication plan** that will **get the message out**. The plan will require planning but minimal expenditures since services are available on a "pay per use" basis.

Tornados are a real risk in Lorain County. If the Fire Department believes the best tornado warning solution is a special "weather radio", I will organize a **group purchase of weather radios** that would allow residents to acquire these warning devices at minimum cost.

Lead paint in Oberlin's housing stock threatens children.

Oberlin's historic houses are beautiful but many contain lead-based paint. Lead is a developmental toxin that is especially dangerous to children. According to the Center for Disease Control, **900,000 children under 5 have dangerous lead levels and African-American children are 5 times more likely to suffer from lead poisoning**. The overall incidence of lead poisoning in Lorain County is lower than in Cuyahoga County, but because of Oberlin's older housing stock, our problem is likely worse than average.

Oberlin needs to promote lead screening. The county health department's Well Child program

provides this screening for free but many residents are not aware of it. A recently passed state law (HB248) will require this screening. Oberlin needs to be proactive so that **not a single child in this city suffers from lead poisoning**.

Oberlin needs to be proactive in attracting business.

Oberlin is a beautiful small town with reliable, reasonably priced electricity and good access to major interstate highways. The city needs to **actively seek out good, job-generating employers** for our industrial park. An economic development officer would be of considerable help here.

Downtown, the city needs to respond to licensing, permitting and minor variance requests more quickly. Month-long delays place a difficult burden on small businesses.

Trees growing under power lines hurt power reliability (and trees!)

I support Oberlin's municipally owned power system. But trees growing directly under power lines reduce reliability. It costs us money to trim these trees, and the result is often a short, disfigured tree. We need to either **stop planting street trees directly under power lines** or **move the lines underground** as other long-term infrastructure upgrades are implemented. Underground wiring is the best solution, but planting trees just a few feet away would be cheaper and allow the trees to grow more naturally.

Preservation of open space.

In a nutshell, my philosophy is "develop the developed areas and leave the open areas open." As traditionally agricultural parts of Lorain County are converted to low-density residential

or commercial space, open space is permanently lost. The city and county need to find innovative ways to get land set aside from development, especially in the Black River watershed from which we draw our water supply.

Wal-mart is rumored to be planning to purchase land near Oberlin just south of US 20 and across from the JVS. I would prefer that Wal-mart not come to our area but if it cannot be avoided we should take steps to get the property annexed into Oberlin. This will generate some revenue and give residents some control over the project.

Brush removal is unpredictable.

Two years ago the city reduced the number of brush pick-ups as a money-saving measure. The current program **doesn't pick up brush at all for months at a time**. Since it is illegal to burn brush or throw it in the trash, **the city must restart regular, predictable brush removal**.

Invasive plant species are widespread in Oberlin.

Common buckthorn was once imported because it yields a tight, fast-growing hedge. Now considered one of Ohio's worst invasive plants, it has no natural enemies and recovers from even the heaviest cutting. **Buckthorn and its fellow invader Japanese knotweed are the most common shrubs in Oberlin's parks!**

Oberlin needs a city-wide plan to control these pesky invaders. The city must take responsibility for public parks and Oberlin College for the Arb. The city could provide an information packet that helps homeowners identify and control these species and work with local nurseries to suggest replacement plants that are native to Ohio. The result will be a better habitat for wild birds and animals. Think globally, act locally!