

# Timothy D. Cassady

Timothy D. Cassady (49) of Mechanicsburg, Ohio has officially declared his candidacy for the 2019 Champaign County Commissioner race. As an 18-year Goshen Township Trustee, he brings a deep background as an elected official and a trusted fiduciary of public tax funds, with specific experience in community planning and development to achieve economic, residential, and recreational growth. Tim has hands-on expertise in budget management, zoning, infrastructure and roads, fire and emergency services, public health issues, and disaster readiness. Mr. Cassady has proudly served Champaign County residents for the past 30 years—both in public office and professionally—and he looks forward to the opportunity to serve all the constituents of Champaign County as the newest County Commissioner.



## **Seasoned & Effective 18-year Township Trustee**

As an 18-year Goshen Township Trustee (and Township President for the last 10 years), he has collaborated with two other township trustees in the planing of a shared vision, budgeting the taxes and financial resources, supervising personnel, and maintaining township roads and right-of-ways.

“It’s important to me to take ownership of the issues that affect our ability to provide services to our constituents,” Cassady said. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to do that for our township.”

During his Trustee tenure, he has played a key role in procuring Fire & EMS services, serving on various committees related to township operations, and working with Champaign County elected officials to resolve issues that affect residents. He and the trustees also worked with township road employees, as well as the Zoning Inspector, Zoning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals, to implement the Goshen Township Zoning Resolution.

“I strive to be a very hands-on Trustee by reaching out and working with other taxing agencies to look for ways that we can all provide more cost-effective services to the people we represent, while maintaining a high quality of service,” Cassady said. “Along with the other two Goshen Township Trustees, I am proud of the fact that we have never asked our taxpayers for any additional funds to maintain our roads. We’ve operated very efficiently and have only needed two levies—one for fire protection and one for EMS services. We’ve done our best to utilize the tax funds already in the budget, and by partnering with the Champaign County Engineers Office we have been able to adhere to the ‘road plans’ established by our predecessors. In some cases, we’ve even been able to extend the life of the road surface due to adopting improved technology and materials.”

In addition to his responsibilities as Goshen Township Trustee, Tim has served as the elected President of the Champaign County Township Association (CCTA) for the past 12 years, and has been an association member for 18 years. As President, he networks with the other 11 Townships in Champaign County to share best practices and solutions to address similar issues faced by all townships.

“I’ve tried to use my time as a CCTA association member to be a conduit between the Ohio Township Association, the elected offices in Champaign County, and our State Representatives’ Office, to relay legislation, training, and other critical information that may have an effect on all 12 Champaign County Townships and the services they provide.”

One example of Tim’s leadership while serving as CCTA President was the creation and implementation of two college scholarships awarded each spring. The first is an “Academic Achievement” scholarship

that recognizes academic excellence of a Champaign County graduating senior. The second is the “Community Involvement” scholarship, which honors a Champaign County graduating senior for their involvement and hard work in groups such as Future Farmers of America, Champaign County Junior Fair Board, and/or other community groups that improve the quality of life in Champaign County.

“I brought this proposed scholarship plan to the CCTA members; the group was supportive, and we formed a committee. I then collaborated with the guidance counselors at each of the Champaign County High Schools to implement the process, review applications and essays, and select the final recipients. It was a perfect example of reaching out to other agencies in the county and working together to achieve a common goal of supporting and developing Champaign County youth. We have been fortunate to award 6 scholarships over the last 3 years.”

Leveraging his township leadership skills at the local level, Tim was elected to the Board of Directors for the Ohio Township Association (OTA) from 2010—2014. OTA is comprised of trustees and fiscal officers from each of the state’s 1308 townships and their mission is the preservation, promotion, and implementation of township government in Ohio, with the belief that the government closest to the people is the most effective form of government.

“My role as Director was an amazing opportunity to stay informed at the state level, thereby helping me to keep all Champaign County townships abreast of any legislation that could affect their ability to provide services to taxpayers.”

As a Director, Mr. Cassidy was responsible for working with other board members to set policy and establish the budget. He also served on the OTA’s Insurance Committee and collaborated with township officials from each of Ohio’s 88 counties. He visited many of the County Township Association meetings across the state, and learn first-hand about some of the challenges faced by other communities.

“As an OTA Director, I also had the opportunity to testify before the state Ways & Means Committee at the Ohio statehouse in 2013 when the Tangible Personal Property Tax (TPP) was being eliminated,” Cassidy said. “My testimony was to encourage the group to distribute a rate of funds to the township road funds across the state, which would bridge the gap of lost township revenue previously realized from TPP.”

“I am proud to have served the OTA in my role as Director,” Cassidy said. “I continue to maintain a great relationship with the leadership at the OTA and I consult with them for answers and advice when complex issues arise locally. Additionally, I attend regular OTA training courses and receive legislative updates on a weekly basis.”

### **Well-Respected Board Member for Historic Local Cemetery**

Along with his township leadership experience, Tim has been a member of the Maple Grove Cemetery Board since 1997, and has served as the Board President for 18 years. He leads the board members in planning a shared vision, budgeting the taxes and financial resources for the cemetery, supervising the grounds personnel, managing the maintenance of equipment, and overseeing the record-keeping of burials and internments. During his tenure as Board President, Mr. Cassidy has contributed to multiple improvement projects for the cemetery. Collaborating with other Board members, he has updated all equipment, built a new maintenance facility, began the process of placing internment records on a computer-based system, resurfaced all cemetery roadways, developed a 5-year plan to ensure all cemetery roadways were resurfaced within every 5 years, and purchased an additional 10 acres for future expansion.

Cassidy explained, “One of the most rewarding Maple Grove projects I have had the opportunity to lead was the relocation of the Spanish American War Memorial. Shortly after being elected as Goshen Township Trustee, the township road leading to Maple Grove Cemetery had a bridge that became unsafe

to the point of causing a road closure. Serving as both the Township President and the President of the Maple Grove Cemetery Board, I met with our Champaign County Engineer, Frey Shokouhi, to discuss the bridge. Neither the Cemetery nor the Township had the funds to replace the bridge, but we were able to work with Mr. Shokouhi and the Champaign County Engineer's office to get the bridge replaced—provided that we agreed to move the Spanish American War Memorial which, at the time, was located at entrance where visitors would drive underneath it to enter the grounds. Due to the age of the Memorial, the structure was a liability and could not remain in the road's right-of-way. I worked to gain the interest of the American Legion in forming a citizen's committee and then personally leading the committee to oversee the monument's dismantling piece-by-piece, and its subsequent reconstruction inside the cemetery—using zero public funds. It is a beautiful monument that stands strong on the cemetery grounds and should never need to be disturbed again. Mr. Shokouhi was able to garner the funds to replace the bridge, and every group involved got something done that was important to them. This project was so meaningful to Mr. Shokouhi that when he passed he requested to be buried at Maple Grove Cemetery and is interred there in section E-3.”

### **Diverse & Dedicated Servant Leader of Champaign County**

Tim is dedicated to building a strong local community and he dedicates much of his time, energy, and leadership talents not only to civics and political activities, but also to a variety of other organizations that strengthen and support the greater Champaign County area.

In 2016, he began his service as an Executive Committee Member of the Logan-Union-Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, an organization that reviews and advises member townships, villages, and cities in the three counties on planned development, transportation routes, and subdivision development.

“I’ve truly enjoyed working with officials not only in Champaign County, but also those in adjoining jurisdictions, to evaluate and advise on development proposals and zoning amendments, and to provide training for zoning officials,” Cassady said.

Since 2018, Mr. Cassady has been a member of the Champaign County Comprehensive Plan Committee, which is charged with promoting responsible planned development that pre-determines areas for economic, residential, and recreational growth in the county. As a committee member, he helps to review and update the plan, provides information from a Goshen Township perspective, and relays the input of other Champaign County townships to the committee for consideration when developing the plan. Committee members focus on pre-planning for community development that would support economic and zoning goals, and they collaborate with elected officials from each of the Champaign County jurisdictions to better plan how their neighborhoods are developed. By updating comprehensive plans, the committee helps make jurisdictions more attractive in order to draw in new businesses to locate within the area. “It’s been a great experience to be involved in the future planning and development of several areas within Champaign County,” Cassady said.

As an Executive Committee member of the Champaign County Emergency Management Association (2015–2018), Mr. Cassady assisted with budget management, participated in operations decisions, and maintained awareness of the disaster plans and readiness for the entire county, and also kept all the Champaign County Townships informed of relevant details.

Tim also served as President of the Champaign County Health District Advisory Council (2014–2016), where he led the council members and facilitated the group’s annual meeting. He and his employees of Tim’s Towing & Auto Recovery volunteer annually at the Health District’s “Scrap Tire Disposal Day,” a program funded by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and designed to reduce mosquito populations by encouraging citizens to bring in their old, unused tires for recycling. The program is led by the Champaign County Health District, in partnership with the City of Urbana and the Villages of North Lewisburg, St. Paris, and Mechanicsburg.

“By collaborating with other government officials, we were able to enhance the services provided to Champaign County taxpayers through this program,” Cassady said, “and also improve the environmental health of our beautiful county. Our annual tire drive has collected thousands of tires that would otherwise be a nuisance and a health concern for Champaign County, and these efforts have certainly improved the quality of life for our county’s residents.”

In addition, Tim currently serves on the Champaign County Board of Developmental Disabilities (since 2016). As a Board member and Finance Committee Member for the organization, he maintains the budget, reviews income and expenses, employs the organization’s Director, and assists in the delivery of services to Champaign County residents who need assistance.

“Serving on this Board has made me a better leader,” Cassady said, “and it’s given me an opportunity to make positive contributions to my community, while utilizing the same skill sets needed to lead the other organizations with which I am involved. It’s an honor to assist in the budgetary and public relations efforts, while collaborating with other officials and efficiently delivering services. My role has given me the opportunity to work with folks with different leadership styles and ideas, all of whom share a common goal to care for the community and improve the quality of life for its residents.”

### **Community Builder**

Mr. Cassady is a member of the Champaign County Farm Bureau (2017–Present), along with many of his family members. Although he’s not directly involved in farming, both Tim and wife grew up helping with and working on farms; they understand and value that way of living, and have raised their family to respect the farming lifestyle. All 3 of his children were active in 4-H and FFA and showed dairy steers at the Champaign County Fair. Both of his sons won the “Grand Champion” title for dairy cattle in 4-H. For many years, beyond just his own children’s participation years, Tim has financially supported the livestock sale as a buyer, along with various other funded projects at the Champaign County Fair. In 2011, Tim and his wife (Kris) were honored with the Mechanicsburg FFA’s “Honorary Chapter Farmer” degree for their work in assisting and promoting FFA service and volunteering.

He has been a member of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce (2010–Present) and believes in their efforts to promote new business and help existing businesses within the county. Additional memberships include: Champaign County Republican Century Club (2009—Present), Fraternal Order of Eagles #3974 (2001–Present), Buckeye State Sheriff’s Association (2015–Present), National Rifle Association (2011–Present), and Towing & Recovery Association of Ohio (2001–Present). He also attends and donates to the Mechanicsburg United Methodist Church, including their “Overtime” program, which provides local area youth with a drug/alcohol-free gathering place after the Friday night football games.

Along with his other local leadership roles, Tim has served as a member of the Southeast Champaign County Fire District Exploratory Committee. Partnering with other township, city, village, and emergency personnel, he and the committee members reviewed the possibility of forming a fire district to serve the communities they represented. After investigating the viability of the project, his team discovered that the proposed model would not be cost-effective for Goshen Township taxpayers, in comparison to the current contract that the township held with the Village of Mechanicsburg to provide Fire & EMS services.

“It wasn’t a cost-effective option for the people of Goshen Township that I represent,” Cassady said. “It would cost our taxpayers more money and could result in the demise of our Mechanicsburg Fire Department, which is also a source of pride to the village and township residents. Although the township may re-visit other options again in the future to ensure that these much needed services continue to be provided in the most cost-effective manner, our evaluation at the time was that this model was not advantageous to our Goshen Township constituents.”

### **Committed to Delivering Strong Civic Leadership**

Tim continually looks for ways to improve and expand his civics knowledge and leadership skills, in order to excel in his community as a servant leader. He enrolled in and completed the Champaign County Leadership Academy training in 2018. The 12-month program helps citizens deepen their knowledge of local organizations, activities, and venues in the county. Utilizing his deep interest in local government revenue and budgeting, he partnered with another classmate to produce a final project that detailed the income that Champaign County receives from the sale of taxable goods, which is a large percentage of the county's general fund.

Along with his participation in local civic organizations, Tim has dedicated much of his time to leading and developing youth in the community. He volunteered as an assistant football coach for 12 seasons between 1997–2012 at Mechanicsburg Middle School and High School, and was responsible for practice planning, working with the offensive and defensive lines, putting together scouting reports, managing attendance, scheduling health physicals, and insuring compliance with OHSA Pupil Activity Guidelines. He also helped lead the teams to win several league titles, while instilling young athletes with the life-enhancing, character-building traits of a strong work ethic, teamwork, responsibility, discipline, and good sportsmanship.

### **Successful Business Owner & Dedicated Family Man**

Mr. Cassady is the founder, owner, and CEO of Tim's Towing & Auto Recovery, a successful and well-respected auto towing business headquartered at 15 W. Sandusky Street, Mechanicsburg, Ohio, which has served Champaign and Clark County businesses and residents for nearly 30 years. He launched the company in 1990 with one truck, responding to a community demand for safely transporting vehicles to be serviced by the Champaign 76 Service Station and other local repair facilities, and he has grown the business to 20 trucks currently. He employs 15 full-time and 3 part-time employees, many of whom have been with the company for 10+ years. Tim maintains hands-on leadership and management of the daily business operations, including accounting, budgeting, advertising, scheduling, human resources, ordering, purchasing, and repairs, while ensuring exceptional levels of customer service. Prior to being a business owner, Tim was employed with Clemens Oil Company in Springfield, Ohio, as a Fuel Truck Driver delivering heating oil, fuel, and lubricants to local farms and residents. He was later promoted to the role of Convenience Store Manager, responsible for all profit and loss financials, day-to-day operations management, and human resources tasks for the store and its food service operation. Mr. Cassady was previously employed as Manager of Champaign 76 Service Station in Mechanicsburg, and worked during his junior and senior high school years as a farm hand and hay/straw handler for several Champaign County farmers.

He graduated from Mechanicsburg High School in 1988, where he played Varsity Football, served as Team Captain his senior year, and was named 1st Team All County in 1987. He also participated in Future Farmers of America (FFA), with a strong focus in mechanical troubleshooting.

Tim and his wife Kristeen "Kris" Cassady have 2 sons, Brian (married to Rose Brill Cassady), Travis (married to Alicia Burns Cassady), a daughter, Hailie Cassady, and 3 grandchildren, Drake Sherwood, TJ Cassady, and Ava Cassady, all of whom reside in Champaign County. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and following local sports teams.

Mr. Cassady is a well-respected leader in his community and is quick to devote his time, talents, and resources to helping others achieve success. Tim brings an honest, respectful, professional, and collaborative leadership style to all the organizations with which he is affiliated. His love and loyalty to Champaign County is sincere and unwavering. He has a genuine passion for his community and is dedicated to building and advancing the county in positive ways so that all of its residents can thrive and achieve an excellent quality-of-life. Tim works hard to ensure that residents are proud to call Champaign County home—both now and for decades to come.