

## John C. Thatcher



**Office:** Mount Vernon Municipal Court

**Age:** 51

**Address:** Centerburg

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**Occupation:** Judge

**Education:** Capital University Law School

**Work Experience:** Knox County Prosecutor, 2005-2014; Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston, Ltd., 2000-2005; Assistant Knox County Prosecuting Attorney, 1992-2000; Columbus Private Practice, 1989-1992

**Family:** Married with five children

**Affiliations:** Muskingum Valley Boy Scouts Council, V.P.; Mount Vernon Rotary Club Foundation, Chair; Centerburg Lions Club; Centerburg United Methodist Church

**Endorsements:** No answer provided

**Bar Association Ratings:** No answer provided

### (1) List your judicial experience (courts & years).

Mount Vernon Municipal Court, July 2014-present

### (2) What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I am qualified to be a judge because of 17 years of experience prosecuting criminals, in Knox County, and eight years in private practice handling civil litigation, in Knox County, Columbus and all around Ohio. I have a strong sense of the Community's values since I have lived my whole life in Knox County and interacted extensively with Community members and organizations. I have life-experience from raising five children.

### (3) Why are you running for this particular court seat?

Like many other communities in Ohio, Knox County is suffering from the effects of drug addiction, especially heroin and opiate addiction. I am running for this Court seat to continue the work I have started to implement a drug court in the Mount Vernon Municipal Court. A drug court is necessary to break the cycle of drug-addicted offenders who appear repeatedly in my Court. Utilizing a treatment team of drug addiction and mental health professionals, a drug court will provide drug-addicted offenders with intensive supervision and treatment. A drug court will also provide drug-addicted offenders with the support of the Court and other drug court participants. My goals are to enhance public safety and reduce public costs by reducing future crimes committed by drug-addicted offenders. Giving drug-addicted individuals a chance to live a clean and sober, law-abiding lifestyle will also improve the overall quality of life in our community.