

# Attorney hopes to represent region

## Roshong wants to return local seat to Democrats

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### SANDUSKY

A Huron attorney hopes to show that Sandusky can again be represented by a Democrat in the Ohio House.

Alicia Roshong describes herself as a moderate, claiming "I feel as though I've been on all sides of the fence. I feel like I can be somebody who can be



**Roshong**

maybe a voice of reason."

Roshong filed as a Democrat for the Ohio House District 89 seat. The district includes all of

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## ROSHONG

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Erie County, almost all of Ottawa County and Lyme and Wakeman townships in Huron County.

Two Republicans have filed for the seat.

The incumbent is state Rep. D.J. Swearingen, R-Huron, who, like Roshong, is a local attorney.

Former state Rep. Steve Kraus also has filed, so the two apparently will face off in the March 19 primary election, although the Erie County election board is mulling a challenge to Kraus' candidacy.

The district once was typically represented by Democrats, including Sandusky attorney Dennis Murray Jr., now a member of the Sandusky city commission; and Chris Redfern, the former chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party.

Kraus unseated Redfern in the 2014 election but was forced out of office after being convicted of theft in an Ottawa County trial.

Kraus maintains his innocence and said the conviction has been expunged.

The election board, which is considering a challenge to Kraus' candidacy, has certified Kraus for now but has requested a legal opinion from the Erie County prosecutor.

Since Kraus' exit, the formerly Democratic seat has been held by Republicans like former Rep. Steve Arndt and Swearingen.

Both fended off challenges from Democrats

in the general election. Donald Trump carried Erie and Ottawa counties in the 2016 and 2020 elections, and the Erie County Republican Party has been making steady gains in local elections.

Roshong, 56, was busy Wednesday setting up a campaign website on the internet. It should be live soon, she said.

Roshong said her platform includes fighting for women's rights, including reproductive rights, and for the rights of the LGBTQ community. All races, genders and members of every religion are entitled to their rights, she said.

"We're all the same. We all start the same. We're all human beings. That's where my passion comes from," she said.

Roshong said she also believes in supporting public education and providing access to health care for everyone.

Roshong formerly was Fostoria's chief prosecuting attorney and law director for 15 years, winning re-election three times after being appointed to the job.

She is now in private practice but also has three other businesses: a Dairy Queen in Fostoria, a real estate development company that buys and fixes up distressed homes and a title company.

Roshong said she is excited about her race and serious about representing everyone.

"My door would always be open and I would listen to everyone, every person in the district," she said.

1.04.2024