

Plain Dealer endorses Steve Hambley in the Republican primary for Medina County commissioner: editorial

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By **The Plain Dealer Editorial Board**

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Steve Hambley

The three-member Medina County Board of Commissioners administers health and human services programs, levies taxes and funds economic development. Each commissioner serves a four-year term. There are two seats in contention. Early voting has begun for the March 6 Republican primary.

THE CANDIDATES:

Thomas C. Decker, 63, retired Parma police officer

Steve Hambley, 57, incumbent commissioner, adjunct professor at Lorain County Community College

OUR VIEW:

Decker, a well-intentioned political neophyte, is waging a populist campaign against Hambley, who seeks his fifth term. Decker says he'll oppose this "career politician" and promises to champion "the people's agenda of responsible government and low taxes."

Unfortunately, Decker hasn't done his homework. His criticism of the countywide fiber optic network that aims to retain and attract businesses is ill-informed and wrong. The network is an initiative Hambley is wise to embrace.

Hambley's support of EfficientGovNow, a statewide strategy to encourage regionalism, promotes the kind of efficient, collaborative, cost-effective government that should resonate with taxpayers.

Hambley has proven himself an effective steward of the public trust and should be renominated. The winner will face Democrat Elisa Kazek in November.